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Lawsuit vs Fitial over veto of casino bill dismissed. PAGE 3
Palacios tests negative for drugs. PAGE 3

CNMI sues to stop FICA taxes

OAG: FICA translates to $24M in annual illegal taxes

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The CNMI government is suing the U.S. Department of Treasury and U.S. Internal Revenue Service to stop the imposition of the Federal Insurance Contribution Act on Filipino and Korean workers with Commonwealth-only status.

The CNMI asserts that the extension of FICA taxes on Filipino and Korean nonresident workers could result in the imposition of $24 million annually in illegal taxes on the Commonwealth economy.

"Imposition of the unlawful FICA tax on businesses struggling in the contracting economy will certainly cause a large percentage of businesses to close," according to assistant attorney general James R. Stump.

The CNMI's economy will be further devastated and the government's budget will be further reduced, he added.

FICA covers Social Security and Medicare taxes. Both employers and employees share the cost of paying these taxes.

Stump filed the CNMI government's

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you support legislation increasing by as much as 50 percent fines for speed violations?

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INSIDE

WORLD

Details emerge about the missing and the dead in the grounding of the Costa Concordia. ➤ PAGE 19

OFFBEAT

A woman gives birth to her first child on a train to New York. ➤ PAGE 20

LIFE & STYLE

'American Idol' is opening its 11th season under a cloud. ➤ PAGE 22

'Korean firm E-Land buys PIC Saipan, Palms Resort'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Korean firm E-Land Group has acquired Pacific Islands Club Saipan and Palms Resort Saipan for still undisclosed amounts, the *Korean Herald* reported yesterday, but *Saipan Tribune* sources said that as far as PIC Saipan is concerned, it was only a "stock purchase."

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CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

Saipan Mayor's Office staffers Vinycia Seman, Rina Teuira, and volunteer Jay-R Marciano teach 14 students from Moon Deok Elementary School in Seoul, South Korea, how to weave palm fronds at the Sugar King Park in Garapan yesterday. The students were able to create headdress, fish, and other shapes and figures using palm fronds. The group is scheduled to fly back to Seoul on Saturday. CLARISSA V. DAVID

See story on Page 6

Bush fire hits Kannat Tabla mountain anew

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A large bush fire struck again Wednesday night at a mountain in Kannat Tabla, sweeping through hundreds of acres of grassland.

Fire chief Tom Manglona told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that he did not get any reports of injuries or houses damaged by the blaze.

"That's a regular bush fire," he said.

When asked why the area keeps going up in flames, Manglona said it could be for various reasons. "It could be a farm area

See BUSH FIRE on Page 4

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Hundreds of acres of grassland at a mountain in Kannat Tabla were destroyed by a big bush fire that struck Wednesday night and spread until yesterday morning. Smoke could still be seen at a portion of the mountain when this photo was taken yesterday at 10am.

4-month-old derivative act repealed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

- Fund says new law 'suppresses crisis'
- Wilshire, money managers expected to return
- 90-day suspension of Fund procurement restrictions OK'd

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed into law yesterday a bill that repeals a contentious four-month-old law allowing NMI Retirement Fund beneficiaries to sue on behalf of the pension agency, two days after the House of Representatives passed the Senate bill.

Public Law 17-67 not only repeals P.L. 17-51 or the Beneficiary Derivative Lawsuit Act, but also suspends the NMI Retirement Fund's procurement restrictions for 90 days.

Fitial, surrounded by members of the House and Senate leadership and Fund officials, said the new law will help prolong the Fund's lifespan.

"This will turn on the light, a very bright light at the end of the tun-

See REPEALED on Page 4

Local

‘$3M additional funds will be available for healthcare corp.’

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Once it finally and completely separates from the central government, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. could expect a $3-million infusion from existing federal health programs.

The $3 million, currently being received by the central government as indirect cost, is provided by granting agencies for the administration of their federally funded health initiatives.

According to corporation chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta, this is among the reasons why the corporation supported the idea of having the Division of Public Health under the organization’s umbrella.

The division exclusively handles federal health programs. Having it under the corporation will entitle it to get the annual indirect costs.

Director for Medical Affairs Dr. Michael Deary and the hospital’s inpatient pharmacist, Anthony Raho, are pushing, however, for the complete separation of the division from the hospital as the two have entirely different missions and functions.

Deary and Raho pointed out that under the then-Department of Public Health, the functions of the Commonwealth Health Center and the Division of Public Health were separate components of the department. When the corporation took over, all these functions were absorbed by the organization.

Raho and Deary said the Division of Public Health focuses entirely on health programs that are mostly federally funded and receive substantial assistance. In combining the division with CHC’s functions, they fear the adverse negative impact this may have in complying with federal mandates and standards. Each federal health programs, they said, has strict requirements and guidelines set by the granting agency.

They said that because CHC’s operations entirely depends on local revenue and appropriation, any shortfall in the local budget may drag down the division because federal programs will be reviewed and assessed with the hospital’s performance.

According to Raho, in most public hospitals in the U.S. mainland, the division is treated as a separate entity from the rest of hospital functions.

Raho said the current setup puts “undue burden” on the corporation.

The corporation’s plan to cut expenditures across the board is also a factor that may impact the division’s performance, he added.

Babauta believes otherwise.

“I don’t see that it is creating undue burden on the corporation. In fact, in many ways, it is helping by virtue of federal grant from the programs. Whether or not we separate these two, the burden is still there. The challenge of bringing the hospital up to speed and the streamlining will still be there,” said Babauta.

He believes that combining the division with the hospital will give the corporation more flexibility that will allow it to use the indirect costs from federal programs for general purposes such as upgrading facilities.

At the same time, combining the division is a model that everybody is now looking at very closely in the region, Babauta said.

“They are anxious to see if this model works so it’s really up to us to demonstrate that we can make this work as opposed to some view if we separate them,” he said.

He said the central government is also not in favor of creating another department, in case the division is separated from the hospital.

Deary remains doubtful, though. “I’d love to see this work but I don’t think the numbers can do it,” he said, believing that indirect cost from federal programs still caters to specific purposes.

NMD registry gets over 2K applicants

Since the creation of the Northern Marianas Descent Registry, about 2,500 individuals have already submitted their applications and are now being verified by the Commonwealth Election Commission, according to board chair Frances Sablan and executive director Robert Guerrero yesterday.

The NMD registry was created by Public Law 17-40 in April 2011 and placed under the Election Commission. The agency started its public education campaign last week and has confirmed that the commission has already received numerous applications and inquiries.

According to Guerrero, because no legislative initiative relating to Article 12 is on the commission’s table for now, the issue about persons of Northern Marianas descent won’t have any impact on the midterm election on Nov. 6.

Frances and Guerrero explained that, for now, the registry merely aims to help Department of Public Lands deal with some land issues because the law stipulates that the commission is the authorized agency that certifies if an individual is of Northern Marianas descent.

They said tamper-proof identification cards will soon be issued to applicants who are verified to be of Northern Marianas descent. This ID is among the requirements that DPL may require in issuing agricultural homesteads and other land designation.

In verifying applications, CEC officials said they base their findings on court documents and hospital records that will prove the applicant is a resident before 1950 and became a Trust Territory citizen—regardless of one’s nationality. ***(Moneth Deposa)***

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Lawsuit against Fitial over veto of casino bill is dismissed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman dismissed yesterday for lack of standing the lawsuit filed by Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) against Gov. Benigno R. Fitial over the governor's veto of the controversial Saipan casino bill.

"Without standing there exists no actual or justiciable case in controversy and therefore this case cannot be brought forth," said Wiseman in his order granting Fitial's motion to dismiss the lawsuit.

The judge noted that Palacios argues that the issue here is not the veto of the governor itself but the issue of "whether a local law is Commonwealth law."

Wiseman said that without an actual controversy—which the doctrine of standing is designed to ensure—the court cannot address the question regardless of its importance.

"The courts do not have the time or resources to issue advisory opinions when no actual controversy exists," Wiseman said.

The judge noted that the Constitution has provided a means for redress when a dispute arises between elected officials through the certified question process, which allows an issue to be processed in a expedited manner before the CNMI Supreme Court.

"As plaintiff does not have standing to bring the case, remaining issues, including plaintiff"s motion for summary judgment, will not be addressed by this court and the case is hereby dismissed," Wiseman said.

The case arose after Fitial vetoed House Local Bill 17-44, which the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation had passed to legalize casino gaming by exempting Saipan from the Commonwealth-wide prohibition on gambling.

Palacios, as chairman of the Saipan and Northern Islands Local Delegation's Committee on Judicial and Governmental Operations, filed the petition in court in October seeking declaratory relief that HLB 17-44 be declared a Commonwealth law.

Fitial, through assistant attorney general Michael Stanker, moved to dismiss the case, arguing Palacios' lack of standing and that the governor's reasons for vetoing the bill are constitutionally sufficient. Palacios filed a cross-motion for summary judgment.

In his order yesterday, Wiseman said the court must look at whether Palacios has standing to determine whether an actual controversy exists.

"Standing is 'a concept utilized to determine if a party is sufficiently affected so as to insure that a justiciable controversy is presented to the court,'" the judge said, citing precedent.

Standing requires the elements of personal injury in fact, causation, and redressability, which Wiseman found to be absent in this case. Without standing, a case cannot go forward, he said.

Palacios alleges he was injured through Fitial's veto message which "damag[ed] his political reputation and 'electability.'" This alleged injury, Wiseman said, is not the type of concrete injury that meets the requirement.

Moreover, Wiseman said, an elected member of the Legislature cannot have suffered a personal injury from a veto of a legislative bill. "It follows, that, without injury there can be no causation."

Wiseman said the doctrine of legislative immunity would prevent the suit from going forward against Fitial who was acting within the legislative process.

Wiseman said Fitial issued a memorandum detailing the reasons of his veto and this court is not in a position to review it for its merits.

Rep. Palacios tests negative for drugs

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Rep. Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan), who was arrested in October for crystal methamphetamine or "ice" trafficking, tested negative for drugs based on the Jan. 12 results of a drug test he took on Jan. 5.

Palacios, who gave copies of his drug test results to the media yesterday afternoon, said he hopes the test results will help remove suspicion in anyone's mind about him.

Still, critics said "ice," which the lawmaker was suspected of using, stays in the system for only a few days so Palacios' drug test result may be accurate but he could have used "ice" before or after the time he underwent the testing.

Palacios

Palacios was tested for amphetamines (ice), cocaine, opiates, PCP/Phencyclidine and THC (marijuana) use.

Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) asked House members to undertake drug testing in October to help remove suspicion in anyone's mind about lawmakers on the heels of Palacios' arrest on charges of drug trafficking as well as alleged drug use. Palacios took the drug test three months after the speaker's call for voluntary drug testing.

Only about half of the 20 House members have so far undergone drug testing. The results came back negative.

A Special Committee on Official Conduct and Ethics headed by House Floor Leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) to investigate drug-related issues surrounding Palacios has yet to submit its report and recommendation to Cabrera. The speaker called for the panel's formation after Palacios admitted to drug use before he was arrested on "ice" trafficking. He later posted bail.

The committee said the bigger question is whether Palacios would be allowed to continue with his duties as an elected official after he makes bail, among other things.

Palacios stepped down as chairman of the House Committee on Education in early November, but has since remained a member of the 17th House of Representatives. He has also yet to decide whether to seek re-election and under what political party.

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FICA

From Page 1

lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday afternoon. Also named as co-defendants are Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner and Internal Revenue Commissioner Douglas Shulman.

The CNMI is suing for breach of the Covenant and violation of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act. It wants the district court to declare that the imposition of FICA taxes on Filipino and Korean workers in the Commonwealth with CW-I status (Commonwealth-only transitional worker) violates the Covenant and the CNRA.

Stump stated in the lawsuit that U.S. law provides an exemption from employer and employee FICA taxation for employment associated with "service performed in Guam by a resident of the Philippines and by a resident of the Republic of Korea while in Guam on a temporary basis as a nonimmigrant alien admitted to Guam."

Stump said the purpose of such exemptions was to avoid imposing FICA taxation on alien individuals who, due to the limited nature of their visa status, would be unlikely to receive benefits.

Nonimmigrant Philippine and Korean nationals working in the CNMI have never been required to participate in the U.S. Social Security System.

On Oct. 5, 2011, IRS issued a memorandum stating that the adoption of the CNRA eliminates the exemption of Philippine and Korean workers in the Commonwealth from FICA taxation and that these individuals are now subject to this tax.

The current minimum wage in the CNMI is $5.05 per hour.

An employee who works 40 hours per week for 52 weeks in a year would have 2,080 hours or $10,504 in gross income.

Stump said a Commonwealth employee earning $10,504 per year who is subject to a FICA tax rate of 7.65 percent would incur an annual liability of $803.

He said an employer paying an employee $10,504 per year who is subject to FICA liability of 7.65 percent would incur $803 in annual tax liability for the wages paid to that employee.

"If 75 percent of the 22,416 CW-1 classification visas that are authorized to be issued in 2012 are provided to Philippine and Korean workers working full-time and earning the minimum wage, the total annual FICA tax liability (employee and employer) would be $27,018,766," Stump said.

The government lawyer pointed out that the ability of the CNMI to supplement local labor with short-term nonimmigrant aliens provides flexibility to the Commonwealth and avoids imposition of a 15.3-percent tax for which there is little likelihood of benefits and no opportunity for refund.

Stump said the avoidance of an inequitable, inappropriate, and detrimental tax structure was the specific intent of Congress in both the Covenant the CNRA, and the FICA tax liability exemption provided to nonresident aliens.

Stump asserted that the CNRA makes no changes to the Covenant sections authorizing the exemption of Philippine and Korean nonresident workers in the CNMI from FICA tax liability.

"It is unlikely that alien nationals present in the Commonwealth under a CW-I classification paying FICA taxes will quality for any associated benefits and the law does not provide a refund to either the employee or employer," he pointed out.

This imposition of illegal taxation, Stump added, will cause significant unnecessary harm to the Commonwealth economy and is contrary to the stated intent of Congress that the CNRA be implemented in a manner as to minimize its impact.

BUSH FIRE

From Page 1

up there and people did some burning and they just let the fire unattended. Those are the issues that we also look into."

The fire of still unknown cause broke out shortly before 8pm. As of 11am yesterday, some portions of the mountain were still smoking.

Motorists and residents noticed the fire and smoke at a portion of the mountain on Wednesday night. After a few minutes, the fire immediately spread. After an hour, the mountain's peak was all lit up as two fires were seen engulfing bushes in separate locations.

Firefighters responded to make sure that the fire does not spread to the few houses near the mountain.

Two big bush fires damaged hundreds of acres of grassland in the area in April and May 2008.

Workers, businesses brace for FICA taxes

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

For small to large employers and their employees living on reduced wages and high cost of living amid a weak economy, paying Social Security and Medicare taxes might as well be the final nail on the coffin.

At the same time, barely a few hours after Gov. Benigno R. Fitial told reporters that his administration will try to reach an amicable agreement with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, the CNMI government filed a lawsuit against IRS over Federal Insurance Contribution Act taxes as a result of federalization of local immigration.

Internal Revenue Service, the U.S. government agency responsible for tax collection and tax law enforcement, confirmed on its website that workers with Commonwealth-only visa or status, including those from the Philippines, are not exempt from Social Security and Medicare taxes.

"Having an additional $40 to $45 deduction from my paycheck because of Medicare and Social Security is just too much," said a 31-year-old restaurant waitress whose work hours have been reduced to anywhere between 51 and 64 hours since last year.

Worse, the employee's payroll has been delayed for three months.

"I won't have anything else left once all these deductions start. I don't even have my paycheck for almost six payrolls now," said the mother of a 15-month-old child.

Complaining about delayed salaries, she said, might lead to her employer terminating her and her colleagues' employment contracts.

A male colleague, meanwhile, has yet to get his four months' worth of paychecks.

"I haven't been paid for four months. By the time I get my paychecks, they would have lots of deductions. These federal taxes will really hurt us a lot. Can the CNMI government do something about this?" said the 55-year-old father of three.

Both employees asked that their names be withheld, fearing retaliation from their employer.

While big businesses such as hotels have already factored in the FICA taxes on their operational expenses, many small companies more likely than not are unprepared.

A private company with 16 employees, for example, will have to shell out some $20,000 to pay the employer's share of Medicare and Social Security taxes of their CW employees.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the largest business organization in the CNMI with some 150 members, is opposed to the application of FICA taxes on CW workers, including those from the Philippines.

Many private employers have workers from the Philippines.

Chamber president Douglas Brennan earlier said that just because U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services changed the name of the immigration vehicle from an umbrella permit to a CW-1 visa does not mean they are no longer temporary work classifications.

"We're talking about the same people, let alone the fact that USCIS has established them as temporary and to be transitioned out of the CNMI in 2014," he said.

The governor, in an interview yesterday at the Legislature, said that when the federalization bill that later became U.S. Public Law 110-229 was being discussed, there was no mention of federal taxes.

Fitial said the FICA taxes on CW workers are in violation of Section 606(b) of the Covenant between the NMI and the United States.

"These people [who will pay FICA] will not get any benefit from this so I hope the United States is not imposing something that is just for punishing the people," Fitial told reporters.

Fitial has asked for a meeting between the CNMI government and IRS.

KOREAN

From Page 1

The two hotel resorts are located on the opposite sides of Saipan—Palms Resort is in the north, while PIC is in the south. They were both built in the '80s.

E-Land Group is not only one of the biggest fashion and retail firms in South Korea, but also has major business interests in hotels, condominiums, and construction.

Sources said E-Land is also trying to acquire Aqua Resort Club in Achugao and other businesses on Saipan as the Korean firm continues to expand its international portfolio.

Hotel employees and businessmen have been talking about the hotel's acquisition for days now.

Tokyo-based real estate development firm Ken Corp. acquired PIC Saipan and PIC Guam only in June 2011 from InterPacific Group Limited. Ken Corp. also acquired Aqua Resort Club in 2004.

As of now, it remains unknown if the current management and staff of PIC Saipan will be retained.

Hiroki Sugie, the current general manager of PIC Saipan, said yesterday that Ken Corp. has not made any formal announcement yet and he cannot comment on anything pertaining to any acquisition.

PIC Saipan, located in San Antonio, is one of the most popular hotels and among those with the highest occupancy in the CNMI. It boasts of 308 guest rooms and a water park, which is popular not only among tourists but also local residents.

Palms Resort Saipan, meanwhile, was acquired by United Micronesian Development Association in February 2008 but announced a major renovation in August 2010 that resulted in the hotel's closure and layoff of its estimated 100 employees.

Palms Resort, formerly Hotel Nikko Saipan, is a 14-story, 313-room hotel across the former La Fiesta Mall in San Roque.

The *Korean Herald* article on E-Land's acquisition of PIC Saipan and Palms Resort quoted an unnamed E-Land official. The article was also posted on Facebook early last night, and said E-Land declined to disclose the purchasing prices, citing a confidentiality agreement.

The same article said that E-Land will start running PIC Saipan next month when it completes the payment of "tens of billions of won."

E-Land Group acquired Highla Condo in 2006 and Corea Condo in 2009, becoming Korea's No. 3 in the leisure business after Daemyung and Hanwha. E-Land also took over a theme park in Daegu and a company that operates boats on the Han River.

REPEALED

From Page 1

nel for the Retirement Fund program, moving forward," Fitial said during the signing in the House chamber. "I want to congratulate all the members of the Legislature…for standing up and doing the right thing."

Sixto Igisomar, Fund board of trustees chair, said the lifting of procurement restrictions for 90 days will allow the Fund to immediately negotiate with its former investment consultant, Wilshire Associates, and some money managers that severed ties with the pension agency when P.L. 17-51 was enacted because of liability issues, among other things.

The new law lifts competitive bidding requirements, among other things, "in order to restore the Retirement Fund's relationships with service providers and contractors who terminated or suspended their relationships with the Retirement Fund between Sept. 5, 2011" and the effective date of the new law.

Besides helping bring back Wilshire Associates and some money managers, Igisomar said the new law will help the Fund invest its assets again in profitable investments and "suppress the crisis" that added to the Fund's existing problems.

Under law, the Fund is not authorized to invest its assets and portfolio without the advice of an investment expert or consultant.

"Now that [P.L. 17-51] is repealed, it's highly favorable that money managers will come back, it's highly favorable that Wilshire will come back but I cannot guarantee until they'll actually get in," Igisomar told *Saipan Tribune.*

Around 1:30pm yesterday, Fitial went to the nearby legislative building on Capital Hill to sign the repealer law in front of lawmakers and Fund officials.

Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), the only House member who voted "no" to the repealer bill on Tuesday, left the House chamber shortly before the governor was to sign the measure.

"Because I voted 'no' I shouldn't be here," Tenorio told *Saipan Tribune.*

Some Capital Hill observers said the timing of Fitial's signing of the repealer came at a time when Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos—who signed P.L. 17-51 in September as acting governor—is currently off-island on medical leave. Others said that even if Inos is on-island, the repealer law would still be signed because the administration now sees the impact of P.L. 17-51 on the Fund.

The repealer bill, Senate Bill 17-94, Senate Draft 1, was offered by Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota), and Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Tinian).

House Floor Leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) also introduced a House repealer bill but an agreement between the House and Senate paved the way for the Senate bill to be passed and sent to the governor.

The new law says P.L. 17-51 "expands the liability risk for any person or entity dealing with the Fund to such an extent that service providers that were under contract prior to the enactment of Public Law No. 17-51 are terminating their agreements with the Fund."

At the brief signing ceremony, Fitial said his administration will be working with the Legislature to come up with initiatives "that we believe will help strengthen the sustainability of the Retirement Fund."

"This repealer, according to my understanding, will enable the existing Retirement Fund program to move forward without any problem. In other words, without this, I can see that there will problem with the Retirement Fund. With this repealer, [it will] remove the issue of uncertainties with money managers and consultants that we need to help the Fund move forward. This will place the Retirement Fund in its proper perspective and the right path moving forward," the governor said.

After the signing, Fitial joined the House and Senate in their closed-door joint leadership meeting in the House chamber.

Since the Fund's investment consultant terminated its contract with the pension agency last year, the board has been liquidating the Fund's assets and putting the cash under the certificate of deposit account registry service, or CDARS program.

Igisomar said the money in this program only earns between 0.02 percent and 0.04 percent, much less than what the money could have earned had it been invested elsewhere. He said the lost opportunity may have cost the Fund millions of dollars, but the Fund has yet to determine the exact amount.

As of Dec. 27, 2011, some $90 million of the agency's $256.7 million assets has already been transferred to the CDARS program. The board's goal is to put all of its funds in the program until a new investment consultant is hired.

BOE urged to establish policy protecting PSS whistleblowers

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Board of Education member Galvin Deleon Guerrero wants the Public School System to create a new policy that will protect whistleblowers.

Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that concerns have been raised to the board about the ability of PSS employees to come forward with complaints or allegations about inappropriate practices within the school system.

He said he is not aware of any existing policy that protects whistleblowers. If such a policy does exists, he said many PSS employees do not seem to be aware of it, nor of any employee who has availed of it.

"While PSS employees are encouraged to follow proper protocol, particularly through their respective supervisors, this can be problematic if the complaint or allegation pertains to an employee's supervisor," he said, alluding to BOE policies relating to the filing of formal complaints and grievances against anyone in the system.

Deleon Guerrero, who is also a director at the Northern Marianas College, believes that, like the Board of Regents, the Board of Education should also adopt a policy addressing this.

NMC's Board of Regents recently adopted a Policy on Integrity and Ethics that calls for procedures to receive and address confidential and anonymous complaints about questionable practices and activities at the college.

Creating a similar policy for PSS, according to Deleon Guerrero, will prevent the creation of a climate of fear within the school system. "I believe that the PSS needs policies and procedures that can protect such employees. Policies and procedures that protect employees will help hold the school system accountable and prevent any climate of fear from emerging within the system," he added.

Former principal Craig Garrison, who recently brought to light the improper cashing out of annual leaves by some non-certified PSS personnel, welcomed Deleon Guerrero's move.

"The proposed whistleblower policy on its face value is a positive addition to BOE policy, as the practice of retaliation against employees is common in many workplace environments including PSS. It's unfortunate that we don't see more proactive policy making from the board as it is a policy making body. … The only policies that seem to have been created over the years are those the COE has handed down for the BOE signatures. I'm glad to see that perhaps that the formal education of member Deleon Guerrero is still ever-present in his decision making and he now seems to understand how and is willing to maneuver the political minefield of policymaking," Garrison said.

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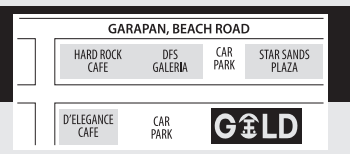

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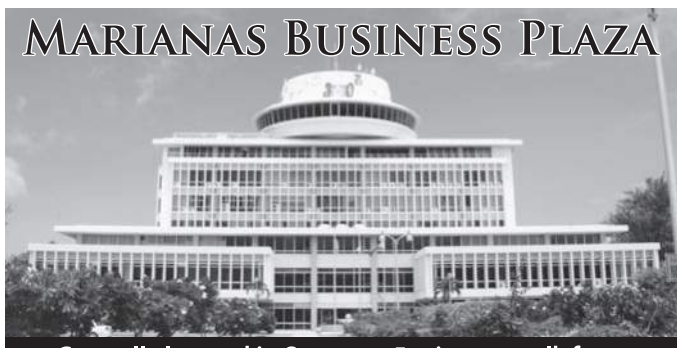

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Off-island doctor said to be interested in Tinian job

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An off-island physician who has prior experience working in the CNMI and Guam has expressed a desire to work at the Tinian Health Center and talks are now underway to finalize his contract, according to Dr. Michael Deary, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. director for Medical Affairs.

Saipan Tribune learned that Dr. Warren Turner is in communication with Deary about the position and Deary expects positive results from the negotiations.

Turner specializes in family and emergency medicine and is currently in California. According to the UCompare Healthcare website, Turner has 35 years of experience as a doctor. He attended medical school at University of California Irvine College of Medicine and graduated in 1977.

Deary reported to the board on Wednesday that Turner has been in the CNMI and Guam in the past and is willing to come back.

"He is very interested in coming to Tinian. He is an emergency medicine physician and spent some time on Tinian. He is well aware of the place and actually has siblings here on Saipan," Deary told the board.

He also complained to the board of the difficulty in processing personnel contracts and its impact on the recruitment of badly needed doctors. Deary said that he continues to justify with the corporation's budget office that the post Turner will taking over is not a new position but a replacement for Dr. Steve Lebamoff, who recently quit.

"The budget officer said [the contract] needs to be certified. I don't know what that means but it doesn't get signed," Deary said.

He disclosed that his attempts to fill pediatrician positions are also being affected by the budget situation. "We have six pediatricians in our budget but I can't get the contracts out," he said.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* after Wednesday's meeting, Deary said he expects to fill the THC position in the "next few months."

Lebamoff was hired at a time when the Tinian Health Center was still under the municipality's control. The corporation officially took over the center on Oct. 1, 2011. When Lebamoff resigned, the center was assigned two rotating physicians.

THC accommodates about 50 patients daily during regular work hours.

Korean students add palm weaving to their bag of tricks

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Korean students from Moon Deok Elementary School will be going back home with an added skill in tow: the art of palm weaving.

Fourteen students learned the skill from Saipan Mayor's Office staffers Vinycia Seman, Rina Teuira, and volunteer Jay-R Marciano at the Sugar King Park yesterday.

Marciano said it was a bit difficult for the students to learn the skill initially. "But once they learned the hang of it, it became easier for them and they were able to weave on their own."

CLARISSA V. DAVID
Korean students from Moon Deok Elementary School show off their creations—palm fronds woven in different forms and designs—as they pose for a group photo with Saipan Mayor's Office staff and volunteers at the Sugar King Park yesterday.

The students were able to create headdress, fish, and other shapes and figures using palm fronds.

"I like making the Nemo fish," said Han Hyung Keun, 11.

Cho Seo Young particularly liked making the crown for herself. "I put flowers in it to make it more beautiful," she added.

Jung Su Min, meanwhile, plans to make woven palm fronds to give to families and friends. "I like weaving than any other activities we had."

Staffer Teuira said weaving is the last activity that the students will have with the Saipan Mayor's Office. On Tuesday, they learned about lei and bead making

"They were very eager to learn. They're also very social and very active, which is why we're going to miss them," Teuira told *Saipan Tribune*.

Seman said the students' length of stay allowed them to know more about the local culture by engaging in various activities.

"I hope they will be able to come back to Saipan because of the degree of interaction they had with our local people. I'm sure they've gained friendships and hopefully they have more personal reason to come back," added Seman.

The students arrived last Dec. 26 for an English camp handled by Judy's Academy on Saipan. They are scheduled to conclude their camp today by visiting their counterparts at Koblerville Elementary School.

The visiting group is scheduled to fly back to Seoul, Korea on Saturday.

Kilili celebrates birthday with the *man'amko*

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan celebrated his birthday yesterday with the congregates of the Aging Center.

Sablan, along with wife Andrea, shared his birthday cake with the *man'amko* who were delighted to see the congressman just before he heads back to Washington, D.C. this weekend.

Sablan said via email that the thought of celebrating his birthday with the island's elderly came to him during the holidays.

"I chose our *man'amko* because I have been visiting our schools and youths throughout the holidays so I wanted to drop by and join our *man'amko* on my birthday," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

During yesterday's visit, Sablan also delivered updates and answered questions about what he and his office is doing on issues such as Medicare and Social Security.

Sablan also made a "small" donation to the Saipan Seniors Advisory Council.

The delegate hopes to do another birthday celebration and visit with the *man'amko* "if my schedule permits."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
CNMI Delegate to Washington Gregorio Kilili Sablan is flanked by congregates at the Aging Center during his visit to celebrate his birthday yesterday.

As for his birthday wish, Sablan replied, "I wish to be able to continue to work hard to improve the lives of our people and to improve the conditions of our islands."

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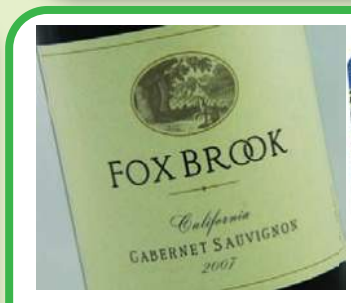

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Comparing auto insurance quotes

»Understanding mandatory liability insurance in the CNMI

Businesses and individuals are required by law to obtain third-party liability automobile insurance for every automobile owned. Third-party liability insurance protects any third party that is found to be a victim of an accident. In this law, insurance companies are also required to follow tariff rates for standard limits when selling automobile insurance. This means that you should expect to see similar rates on your automobile insurance quotes for standard limits.

How to compare quotes for auto insurance

The smartest way to getting the best deal for auto insurance is simply to shop around. But because insurance companies quote differently, you need to be sure you are comparing apples with apples. Lower prices may mean higher deductibles and lower coverage, which may not necessarily work to your advantage. Having a full understanding about insurance quotes will enable you to determine whether or not you are getting the best deal.

Comparing coverages

Comparing coverages is crucial when shopping for the best automobile insurance deal. Carefully read over quotes and study them carefully to be sure that you will be getting the best coverage and protection. Look for things like liability limits, uninsured motorist coverage, and medical expense coverage. You may also read over the comprehensive and collision deductibles to make sure that they match. It is also important to inquire over the telephone or email to find out if there are additional offerings outside of basic insurance coverage, such as roadside service and other perks that you may be entitled to simply by doing business with them.

Comparing discounts

Quotes should easily spell out the type of discounts you are getting. Oftentimes, the discounts presented are there because you qualify for it. If you are purchasing automobile insurance for standard limits, you may be entitled to a multi-car and a no-claims discount under the CNMI tariff. A multi-car discount will automatically apply if you are insuring more than one vehicle at a time. A no-claims discount will also automatically apply if you have never filed a claim for at least three consecutive years from your new or previous insurer.

For better protection, you may also request for higher limits. The higher limits are applied to third-party liability and passenger liability coverages. Businesses and individuals request for higher limits for better protection. Higher limits also give more legroom to negotiate for better discounts.

Auto claims services

When comparing auto insurance quotes, it is also important to know the quality of claims service that you will be receiving. Find out if the insurer has a fully staffed claims department that will be able to tend to your claims needs in a timely manner. It is also advisable to meet with the company's claims adjuster to learn more about their claims procedures. ***(Pacifica Insurance)***

For more information on automobile insurance, call Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. at 234-6267 or visit their office located at Joeten Center in Susupe. You may also visit www.pacificains.com or send an inquiry via email to piui@pacificains.com. Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. is a general agent for Century Insurance and Tokio Marine Pacific Limited.

Gaining a competitive advantage via outstanding customer service

AFFILIATE OF SHRM SOCIETY FOR HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The January general membership meeting of the Society for Human Resource Management CNMI Chapter will be focusing on the topic "Gaining a Competitive Advantage through Outstanding Customer Service," which will be presented by Rik Villegas, a business consultant and a business instructor at the Northern Marianas College. The lunch meeting will be held at the Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret on Thursday, Jan. 26, 2011, from 11:30am to 1:30pm.

This presentation is open to the public and will be an invaluable opportunity for employers and employees to learn more about how businesses in the CNMI can still survive by continuously improving to offer outstanding service, even in a down economy. The presentation will illustrate how simple mindset shifts in companies, such as Zappos.com, have allowed their business to perform at a pace that outstrips their competitors.

Villegas will present on important topics such as:

■ The three phases and 12 components of customer service that every organization should continuously improve to offer outstanding service;

■ How to create an exciting environment where people are valued for their contribution and feel compelled to give their best;

■ How the concept of Life Transitions can create a top-of-mind awareness that positions you as the trusted authority to your prospects and customers;

■ The essential mindset shifts that will transform your organization into a customer-focused organization.

The presentation includes lunch and the cost is $20 for SHRM members and $30 for non-members. Seats are limited, so reserve your seat by contacting Polly DLG. Masga at 237-5122 or e-mail shrmnmi-chapter@gmail.com. To learn more about the SHRM CNMI Chapter, visit http://nmichapter.shrm.org. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

2 Saipan beach sites red-flagged

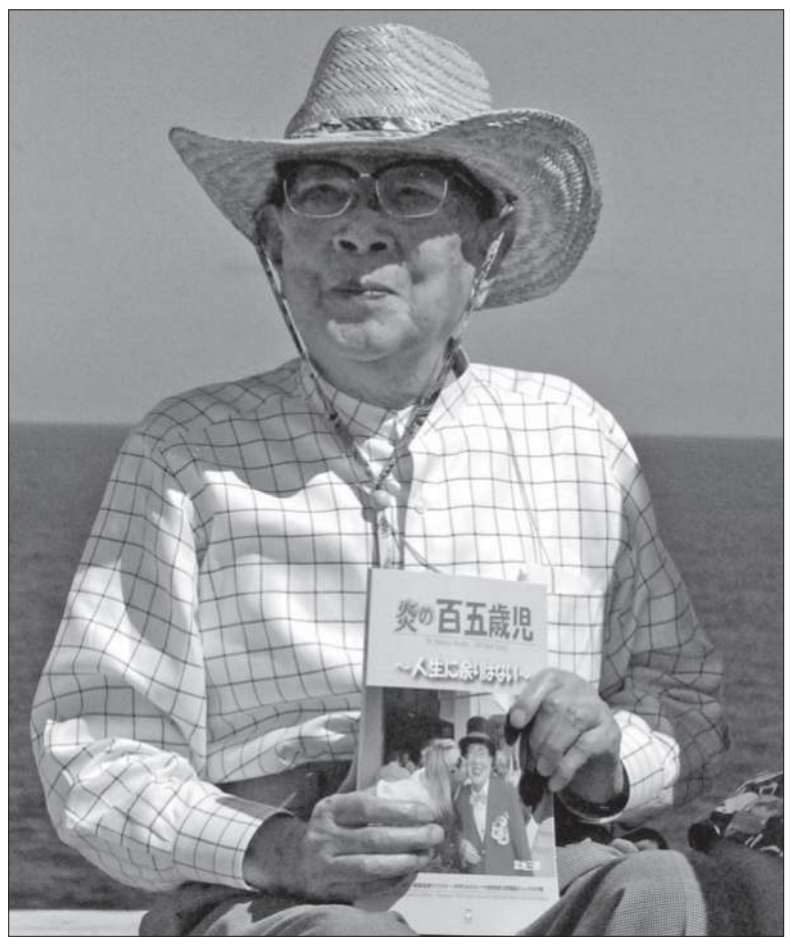
The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged DPW Channel Bridge and Sugar Dock is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified. DEQ said that samples collected from these locations had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples were taken from 38 locations on Saipan this week. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

Deadline extended for Tinian scholarships

The Tinian Municipal Scholarship Board is informing applicants—new, continuing, and returning—that the submission deadline has been extended until Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2012. Continuing applicants submission requirements are an original transcript, class schedule, and memorandum of agreement. All new applicants that have yet to submit their requirement deficiencies are requested to comply on or before Jan. 31, 2012. For more information, contact the Tinian Municipal Scholarship office at (670)433-1800, 433-1802, or email tinianscholarship@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

'The Miracle Worker' show this weekend

Watch the Friends of the Arts' performance of *The Miracle Worker*, the moving story of Helen Keller and Annie Sullivan, on Jan. 20 and 21 at 7pm and Jan. 22 at 3pm. All shows will be at the MHS Dolphin Theater (Bldg T), $12 for FOA members,$15 for non-member adults and $8 for students and children over 4. Contact Frank Gibson for tickets and reservations at flgibson@yahoo.com or at 287-7476. ***(FOA)***



105 YEARS YOUNG CLARISSA V. DAVID

Dr. Saburo Shochi, the 105-year-old founder of Shiinomi Gakuen, Japan's first school for mentally challenged children, holds a copy of his book, *Dr. Saburo Shochi: 105 Years Young*, as he talks about his secrets to his longevity at the Banzai Cliff Wednesday morning. Shochi, who has traveled around the world seven times, is on island to search for the peace memorial built some 30 years ago.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jan. 20, 1999

CPA pledges dialog on port fees hike

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has assured the International Air Transport Association that it will consult various airlines and give them adequate notices before implementing the new airport rates. In a letter to Lim Liang Poh, assistant director/user charges, the ports authority said it will continue to work closely with the airlines to promote the Northern Marianas as a tourist destination. "It is well over 10 years since CPA last raised its rates and we truly wish increasing our fees is not necessary. Unfortunately, our dilemma is now having a smaller enplanement with higher financial obligations," said Carlos H. Salas, executive director.

Legislator eyes loans from Fund

A lawmaker has recently introduced a bill that will compel the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund to provide personal loans to members who may need extra cash in light of the worsening economic crisis. Sen. Edward U. Maratita, author of Senate Bill 11-80 or the Retirement Fund Loan Act of 1998, has proposed that the Retirement Fund allow government employees to utilize at least 25 percent of their contribution in the form of personal loan. Acting NMIRF Administrator Fred Camacho said the Retirement Fund's Board of Trustees may consider the proposal as another way of investing part of the system's assets to the community.

Jan. 20, 2000

OVR may be taken out of high-risk designation soon

The federal government may soon scrap the high-risk designation given to the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation with the successful implementation of corrective action plans to save the agency. Earlier, the California-based Rehabilitative Services Administration in Region 9 has already lifted the "reimbursement status" of the OVR, due to efforts made by the current officials to carryout meaningful action programs. Vocational Rehabilitation is a joint federal-state partnership that operates in all the 50 States and possessions and territories of the United States including the CNMI. Although the program has been in existence in the U.S. since 1920, it was not extended to the CNMI until the early '70s.

Less restrictive quarantine law vetoed

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has disapproved a bill easing strict requirements on quarantine of animals entering the CNMI after legislators failed to correct a typographical error which has drastically altered its intention. Citing recommendation by the CNMI Veterinarian, he said the proposed law under House Bill 11-355 "poses a very serious public health threat, and would endanger the health of animals, as well as the people here in the CNMI." Mr. Tenorio noted there was "inadvertent error" in one provision in which it only required animals to have .05IU/ml of rabies antibodies in their serum to pass the rabies antibody blood test.

Jan. 20, 2003

PSS expects more funding for Reading

The Public School System is expecting to get an increase in federal funding for the Reading First program next school year following the recent pronouncement of President Bush to further boost the budget for the initiative in FY 2004. "We'd pretty much feel the impact here also. If they increase the national funding, then certainly, insular areas budget would also increase," PSS federal program officer Bill Matson said. He said, though, that the proposed increase by the President has yet to be approved by the U.S. Congress. Bush, in celebrating the one-year anniversary of the signing of the No Child Left Behind Act, had announced that the FY 2004 budget proposal increases funding for the Reading First and Early Reading First programs by $75 million over last year, bringing the total to over $1.1 billion.

Senate sets rate ceiling for utilities

In a move that could further strengthen the regulatory functions of the CNMI government, the Senate on Thursday passed a bill that sets a ceiling on the rates that the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is currently charging for water, sewer and electricity. The Senate voted 7-1-1 to pass Senate Bill 13-35, with Sen. Ramon S. Guerrero voting "no" and Sen. Diego Songao abstaining. The bill, authored by Senate Floor Leader Joaquin G. Adriano, now goes to the House of Representatives for adoption. According to the bill's proponents, utility service rates in the Commonwealth are prohibitively high, further aggravating the already high cost of living and doing business in the islands.

Kagman High tightens ID rule for student meals

Starting Jan. 30, 2012, all Kagman High School students will be required to use their KHS identification cards 100 percent of the time in order to get meal services. No KHS identification card, no meal service.

In order to avoid, delay or disruption of meal services, parents are being urged to make sure that their children have their identification cards by Jan. 30.

At the beginning of this school year, all students of Kagman High School were provided with an identification card free of charge. This card contains a barcode that is used to process meal information for each student.

According to the school's administration, the reason for requiring the ID cards is to have 100-percent accountability.

"This system is used to track school data for our federally funded programs. Parents can also inquire about their own child's data, to see eating patterns, spending habits and frequency. This fully automated system allows for students to go through the meal line more quickly and efficiently; serving more students faster," the school administration said in a statement.

Students who need replacement cards can request for them in the main office for a limited discounted replacement fee of $2 until Feb. 10. After Feb. 10, the price will go up to the original $5 replacement fee. ***(PR)***

Learn how to make native toys, ornaments

The Inetnon Amot yan Kutturan Natibu/Mwiischil Safey me Kkoor Aramasal Faluw is offering free lessons to Chamorros and Carolinians on how to make old fashioned toys and traditional games at the Saipan Chamorro-Carolinian Village Cultural Centers Headquarters (1213 Capitol Hill Rd, across from the Workforce Investment Agency and next to the CNMI Board of Parole Office) this Saturday, Jan. 21, 2012. The lessons will start at 9:30am and end around 12pm. Parents or grandparents are encouraged bring their children for this activity.

This Saturday's activities at the Rota Chamorro Village Cultural Center (in the DCCA office compound) include making bayogu ants doll, coconut shell bracelet-heart design, beads bracelets, and dry seeds ornaments. The lessons on Rota start at 10am.

These activities are offered by the Association of Native Medicine and Culture, in partnership with the Indigenous Affairs Office (Saipan) and the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Office (Rota), and funded in part by the Administration for Native Americans. For more information, call 322-0278 on Saipan and 532-9350 on Rota. ***(PR)***

FBI donates car to CPA Ports Police

From left to right, Commonwealth Ports Authority Tinian manager Joseph Mendiola, CPA executive director Edward M. Deleon Guerrero, FBI special agent Joe Auther, CPA comptroller Derek Sasamoto, and Ports Police chief Jordon Kosam.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Federal Bureau of Investigation on Saipan donated a Toyota 4-Runner vehicle to the Commonwealth Ports Authority's Ports Police Department on Nov. 30, 2011.

A brief ceremony was held at the executive director's conference room at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport to turn over the vehicle.

FBI special agent Joe Auther met with CPA executive director Edward M. Deleon Guerrero and management to extend their appreciation to CPA for continued support in both CPA and FBI related operations for the past several years.

The vehicle will augment the CPA Ports Police fleet providing patrol and answering to community calls around the airport and seaport. ***(PR)***

LANGUAGE CLASS NMC

Program managers Les Ogumoro-Uludong, back row, seventh from left, and Floyd Masga, back row, sixth from right, of the Northern Marianas College's Community Development Institute pose for a group photo with Saipan World Resort managerial staff and 13 interns, who recently received their certificates for completing CDI's English Language Development Course. The interns, who are from Russia, Japan, and Korea, took the short-term course to improve their English language skills in writing, listening, and speaking.

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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
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EDITORIAL

Cruise ship captain demonstrates rare cowardice

Two images confront us. One is the courageous sea captain, bravely battling the elements amid tragedy and misfortune, determined to go down with the ship because that's his responsibility, and that's the way things are done.

And then there's Capt. Francesco Schettino, who appears to be quite the opposite.

Many things have changed over the centuries, but the role of sea captain isn't among them. He has full command and ultimate authority over his vessel and all who sail on it. Schettino's last posting was as captain of the *Costa Concordia*, a Carnival-owned cruise ship carrying 4,200 vacationers on a Mediterranean loop from Rome. Schettino, 52, deviated from his programmed path to order a risky, unauthorized pass of the Tuscan island of Giglio, apparently as a favor to his maitre d', a native of the island.

The *Concordia* struck a reef, ripping a hole in the massive cruise liner. As alarmed officers begged him to act, Schettino dithered. Passengers describe a panicked rush to the lifeboats as the ship listed. Schettino would insist that he stayed aboard until all passengers were safely away, which a tape of his conversation with an Italian coast guard officer would disprove. Schettino, the man in charge, had taken up space in a lifeboat that should have gone to someone else. Worse, he exhibited confusion and cowardice rare among the seafaring.

Italian coast guard Capt. Gregorio De Falco demanded that Schettino return to his post to supervise the evacuation. Schettino wanted to stay in the lifeboat and resisted repeated orders to go back. The captain had no idea whether anyone had died. As of Tuesday, that number had reached 11, with several more people listed as missing.

When he reached shore, Schettino was arrested and jailed on charges of manslaughter and abandoning ship. He's entitled to a presumption of innocence, but the evidence is stacked against him.

If you are among the millions who cruise safely each year, you know that one of the first things you do aboard is attend a "muster drill," where each passenger is assigned to a specific station, taught how to use a lifejacket and told to follow the directions of ship's staff, in case of emergency.

There's a reason international law requires it. It's one of the few compulsory events on your cruise, a brief distraction from the sun, fun, food and excellent service you receive on these floating luxury hotels.

Emergencies are rare, sinkings even rarer. But when they happen, as they will, one person is responsible. When that person fails so spectacularly, people die. The sea did not claim Francesco Schettino, and he must live with that.

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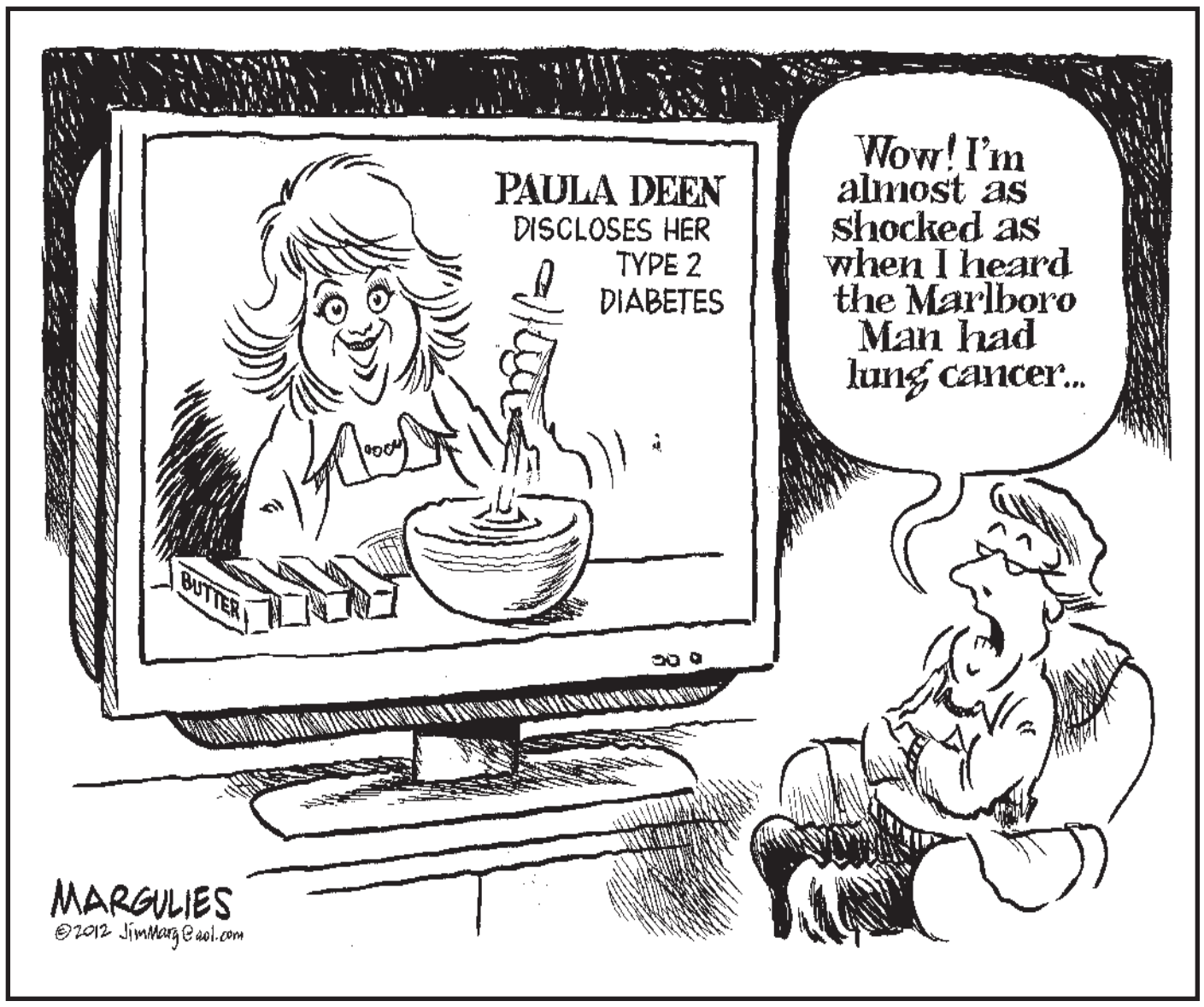


Does the GOP really want a return to the buggy-whip economy?

By GLENN GARVIN
The Miami Herald

Glenn Garvin is a columnist for the Miami Herald, *1 Herald Plaza, Miami, Fla. 33132. Readers may write to him via email at ggarvin@miamiherald.com.*

George Wallace, when he made a third-party run for the presidency in 1968, acidly observed that there wasn't a dime's worth of difference between the Republican and Democratic parties. And as everyone can tell you, a dime ain't what it used to be. The way Mitt Romney's Republican rivals savaged him last week proves that the difference is something under two cents.

Newt Gingrich, Rick Perry and Jon Huntsman all joined hands in ripping Romney for his work at the private-equity company Bain Capital during the mid-1990s. They said Romney "made millions buying companies and laying off workers" (Perry) and should "give back all the money he's earned from bankrupting companies and laying off employees over his years at Bain" (Gingrich). Added Huntsman: "Governor Romney enjoys firing people. I enjoy creating jobs." (On Monday, Huntsman worked on creating a job for himself in the next White House, withdrawing from the presidential race and endorsing Romney in a truly epic display of suck-upmanship.)

Private-equity companies like Bain buy troubled businesses and try to turn them around. Often that involves closing down unprofitable divisions or cutting payrolls. People get fired. The process is ugly, and worst of all, sometimes it doesn't work. A Wall Street Journal study of 77 Bain investments from 1984 to 1999—roughly the period that Romney ran the company—showed that 22 percent of the businesses filed for bankruptcy reorganization or shut down altogether within eight years.

In terms of measuring Bain's failure rate, there are some good reasons to regard that 22 percent as an exaggerated figure. Some of the businesses ran into problems only after Bain had already sold them. And bankruptcy reorganization is often the first step to rebuilding a healthy company. At one point in 2005, four of the seven largest U.S. airlines were operating under bankruptcy protection.

But let's accept the 22 percent figure anyway. That means that four-fifths of the time, Bain kept struggling companies alive for at least eight years. There are plenty of cancer doctors who would be very happy if their patients had a survival rate that high. Without Bain's intervention, that 22 percent failure rate would probably have been close to 100 percent.

It is, of course, possible that other private-equity companies were even more successful; it's not easy to assemble an industry report card when financial data is so tightly held. And in any event, private-equity companies evaluate themselves not in terms of jobs saved but in the money they made for their investors. Given that they've forked over about $38 billion to Bain, I'm guessing the investors are pretty happy with the way things are going.

The point, however, is not whether Bain is the best outfit to call if the Chinese are undercutting prices at your steel foundry. It's that Gingrich, Perry and Huntsman apparently regard a job in the same way that Barack Obama and Nancy Pelosi do: not as an economic compact between worker and company that dissolves when it ceases to be mutually beneficial, but as an eternal social-welfare covenant.

Businesses do not exist to provide jobs. They exist to serve consumer needs. This, in turn, generates jobs. When consumer needs change—because of new technology, altered economic conditions, or just plain customer whimsy—businesses have to change, too. One of the Bain-owned companies that laid off workers was DDi Corp., a circuit-board maker, where about 600 workers lost jobs in the wake of the dot-com bust. What sense would it have made for DDi to keep all those workers on the assembly line, putting together computer motherboards that nobody was going to buy?

"If the point of the economy was just to preserve jobs at all costs, we'd still have all kinds of jobs making buggy whips and repairing wooden carriage wheels," says Benjamin Powell, an economist and senior fellow at the Independent Institute think tank. "We only want to preserve jobs that provide services that people want."

There are a lot of good reasons to resist the candidacy of Mitt Romney: his constant flip-floppery, his drug-war hawkishness, his profound conviction that all bigger government needs is better technocrats. But his work restructuring foundering businesses is not one of them. Of Republican candidates, only Ron Paul—who resolutely refused to join the Romney-bashing last week—understands that. "Restructuring in the free market is a good idea," he declared. If only Gingrich and Perry believed in the free market.

A chip off the old windshield

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

Unleaded gasoline soared 14 percent in price over the past year in global markets. The impact on Saipan is plain to see, as gas hovers near the $5 mark per gallon now. I'm always on the lookout for ways to save money on my cars, and, though I can't fix expensive gas, I've found a good kit that allowed me to mend a couple of windshields, which cost me all of $12.

What is it with windshields these days? Up until a few years ago I never had to replace one. But in the past few years I've had to replace two of them after they got hit with flying pebbles. In both cases, the immediate damage was just a tiny little chip in the glass. And, also in both cases, the chips wound up growing into large cracks.

So I don't know if modern glass is getting weaker, or if modern rocks are getting stronger, but, either way, I can't afford these problems.

Recently, a couple of our cars got nicked by soaring pebbles on the road. I guess it was mating season for pebbles or something. I wanted to see if I could repair the chips before they grew into bigger problems. I'm talking little tiny chips on the windshield, each one no bigger around than a pencil eraser.

The basic concept of the repair kits is pretty simple: The damaged area is cleaned out a bit by digging out any obvious chunks, and then a resin adhesive is injected to fill the gap. The resin has to be forced into the chip under pressure in order to ensure that it reaches all of the damaged area.

I wound up buying two kits for this. The first one, made by an established brand that any mechanic will recognize, was bought over-the-counter in a retail store. What a mistake that thing was. Not only did the kit break during use, but it broke after it had injected some resin into the crack, thus blocking any hope of success with a follow-up repair.

With my back to the wall at this point, I had no choice but to hit the Web. Amazon's site had an abundance of insightful customer reviews for this realm. The stinker of a product I had bought got bad reviews, which at least validated my experience with it, but it still shows my stupidity for not researching things before the fact. Oh well. But by perusing the reviews I found something that seemed to work well, the "Fix-A-Windshield" kit which is made by Fix-A-Flat, a brand usually associated with tire repair products.

One feature of the Fix-A-Windshield is that it uses suction cups as feet to anchor a plastic bracket atop the windshield, thus providing a very solid base for the resin injector. On the other hand, this design meant that it took me a little while to get everything aligned correctly, since every time I moved one foot, the entire bracket would shift slightly. If I ever have to do this again, I'm going to have an assistant inside the car who can help me align everything with the chip.

I was able to mend two chips in far less than an hour. Well, I assume they are mended, only time will tell. The fixing is done in the shade so that the windshield isn't too hot. Then the car is parked in the sunshine so that the resin will cure.

I don't know how many chips can be repaired with a single kit. Though I milked it for two repairs, maybe more could be had, I don't really know. My efforts did not restore the glass to its flawless and virgin state, but I am hopeful that they are good enough to keep the chips from growing into cracks. The cosmetics don't concern me. The structural integrity does.

There are people who repair windshields professionally, but I don't know of any on Saipan. But I once talked to a pro, a very meticulous guy who had been a machinist in the Navy, who told me that the most important thing is to repair the chip as soon as possible, ideally within one day of the damage. Otherwise, he said, road grime will start gumming up the wound, and the more of that contamination there is, the lower the odds that the resin will adhere properly.

Incidentally, two of the auto glass shops I talked to on Saipan do not suggest attempting repairs, but instead recommend replacing a damaged windshield. Though I can't see any harm in trying to repair a small chip, I'm just a slob and an amateur, so I'm not giving advice, I'm just telling you what I did.

But I think it's safe to say that the main way to minimize car expenses is to keep on top of maintenance and repair issues, so that little problems don't snowball into big ones.

Dystopia: Where nothing works!

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

In the court of law, the government shows it can't pay its share of employer's contribution of some $221 million to the Fund. It's a legacy imposed mostly by Republican administrations that brought the Fund to its knees. It would render current retirees penniless in two years' time.

Money for home loans, health insurance, and other family obligations would come to a screeching halt. Apocalyptic hardship makes its final descent into these pearly isles.

In the court of public opinion, governance has expressed vicious discontent. In a nutshell, it no longer trusts the ability of local government to navigate the impending apocalyptic economic devastation. They know that inaction would turn into further hardship. This sentiment is especially prominent and clearly expressed in Marianas Agupa, a radio talk show about our people, our islands and our future.

Our people are usually reserved in their views on issues. But this shifted into high gear last weekend. The intensity of frustration in callers' voices clearly depicts dire hardship that families would face in the face of new or impending increases. It includes gasoline, surcharge, non-potable water, basic goods, and CUC's $10 million loan that consumers must pay. All these increase against income that has remained stagnant or non-existent as a result of underemployment or unemployment.

The deepening mess presents a perfect bird's eye view of the fiery magma that consistently moves into our presence. Inevitably, the hardship will leave an indelible impression in the minds of governance that this wasn't what they sought six years ago. Would lame incumbents have the gall or conscience to recast the same failed promises this midterm election? Would they brave disoriented agenda and sugar lace it with redundancy while tucking their tails between their legs?

Bankruptcy and the consequence of dire economic hardship annihilating the livelihood of governance turn difficult tools of political persuasion. In fact, it becomes fodder for the opposition who'd use it to cannibalize incumbents. In simple terms, governance can no longer accept mediocrity. It makes re-election difficult for any and all incumbents. But then they must have earned their stripes, too.

Loss of first family home

On top of a pile of increases and accompanying hardship, family matriarchs and patriarchs begin to ponder the eventual loss of the first family home to foreclosure. And they pine for answers as they quietly ask: "Would we ever own our home again?" Can you imagine your children asking, "Mom, when are we going home?"—missing the comforts of, yes, home!

Though NMHC did its best to assist its clientele, stagnant income, salary reduction or unemployment drained any hope of meeting this obligation. With zero in the family pocketbook, taking the exit is often the better option in order to save and use what's left for food and other family needs. It's no longer a challenge but one hellish whole beast to contend with forever.

Foreclosure instantly turns into the displacement of families. It forces moving to a relative's house, siblings, or parents or help on tight public housing. It instantly triggers unhealthy crowded conditions. So much for the culture of building safe and sanitary dwellings for newly established families. A bad economy forces a case of homelessness! The magma of familial hardship is fatally unstoppable.

Private industries sputtering

The business sector's condition has surpassed the anemic stage now suffering from jaundice. It's sputtering to death trying to navigate (as residents do) assorted increases that simply make doing business here unprofitable. Spikes in surcharge and wage are sufficient to force anyone into bankruptcy.

Once upon a time they'd use their brains to think and plan. Today, they are thinking with their feet, ready to move elsewhere. This doesn't bode well with fast eroding hopeful aspirations to rebuild a grossly devastated economy. But then with the comforts of *mañana,* what's to expect from a new culture of reluctance and acquiescence?

■■■

Consequence of lack of trust

When something isn't right, any reasonable person can almost instantly notice it. It is highly sensitive and easily detected, especially when it wedges different application of law or set of rules in the conduct of business.

For instance, the idea that the CNMI doesn't grant equal protection to all citizens and those legally situated is bad news. It has reverberated negatively and irreversibly among friends from near and far. That the enforcement of laws fudge in favor of locals when equal application is the fair paradigm creates an uneven playing field that people easily notice, too.

Our land policy has jolted the trust of investors for the lack of a trustworthy legal code that provides equal protection for everybody. Isn't there room for assimilation of investors who also want to be a permanent part of our community? It is this aspect that has had many of them thinking with their feet. Most have finally decided, "enough is enough" and left for venues where the grass is greener, i.e., Australia, Taiwan, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, and the Philippines. The discriminatory aspect of Article 12 has been trumpeted loudly and became a major hurdle to reviving investment on the islands.

The economy shrinking beyond anemia, we must buckle down and resolve fundamentally flawed policies or forever hold our breath as paradise annihilates as a result of our inability to rebuild burned bridges via fair policies. It's all in the palm of our hands. We can do it. It's now or never!

Letters to the Editor

Just do it!

I now live in California but I was here a few years ago and I left because I saw and felt that the people of the CNMI have lost their passion for our island. It was all about the money and who had the most of it. Rich or poor, you are responsible for what belongs to you! Government is a given and there is nothing you can really do about that...but you don't have to wait for someone to tell you that the trash needs to be taken out! C'mon now…the younger generations are leaving our islands because they have ideas that have fallen on deaf ears! The people of the Mariana Islands need to get together. Have a community gathering and work together to form groups to monitor the happenings within their own villages. If there is an issue then the groups should figure out a way to fix it. Don't wait 'til it gets out of hand. Look at the situation, think of ways to repair and resolve it. Like they say: "Just do it." Stop passing the buck and pointing the fingers *nai*! And the government? Well, that's another 55 gallon of *basula* [trash] that needs to be sanitized, deodorized and disposed of.

Norma Warwick
Martinez, Calif.

Different colored glasses

One viewer writes that they are upset over the late delays of the ABC news to Saipan and that Sorensen is sacrificing quality of product to save costs. I don't reside on the island anymore so I cannot weigh in on that debate but I can relate something Rex Sorensen said to me many years back when I was working as a DJ at the old Hot98 station and he acquired Hot98 to become part of his larger media group and Power99. I asked him for a raise and his response was quick: "We are a sales organization first and foremost, not a radio programming and content creator. We sell airtime and only our sales staff can expect that kind of money."

Hearing that certainly did take the piss out of me for wanting to give 110 percent of my creative efforts to his sales organization that just so happens to sell a radio product, but it's business and I understand where he was coming from. In the end he has built a sizable media group in the Pacific, and that is no easy task.

Rex Sorensen at the end of the day is an accountant, end of story. He sees his business in broadcasting from that perspective first, and not as a producer, director, or a journalist would. Clearly, he's in business to make a buck, and in these economic times it's hard. With ad revenues falling across all media platforms, something has to give and get cut.

Is delaying the important news and sports a wise choice to hit your customers with when cutting costs? Probably not. But remember he runs a sales organization that just so happens to sell airtime, not a production company, so go figure from that point of view. Like it or not we all truly see the world through different colored glasses.

Shane Novak
via email

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼76°

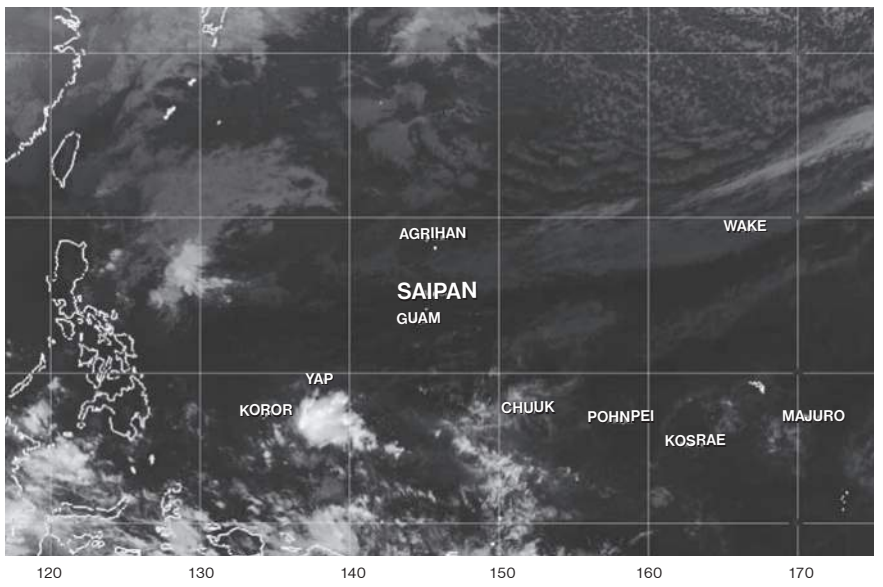
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼75
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲84	▼78
Kosrae	Showers	▲84	▼78
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼64
Beijing	Sunny	▲29	▼ 6
Hong Kong	Showers	▲66	▼58
Honolulu	Sunny	▲81	▼70
London	Showers	▲54	▼45
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲64	▼51
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼74
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼61
Miami	Sunny	▲80	▼65
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲34	▼29
Osaka	Showers	▲47	▼41
Paris	Showers	▲52	▼46
Pusan	Showers	▲49	▼36
Rome	Sunny	▲59	▼41
Salem	Showers	▲49	▼43
San Francisco	Showers	▲58	▼51
Seoul	Snow	▲38	▼20
Tokyo	Showers	▲45	▼39
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲37	▼35

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends west-southwestward from southwest of Midway Island at 25N180 to just south of Wake Island at 18N167E then continues as a shear line to beyond 130E at 14N east of 167E. Cloudiness and patchy rain are found along this boundary and northward to beyond 25N west of 167E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are present along and up to 180 miles north of the shear line. A near-equatorial trough heads east-southeastward from 3N130E through a weak circulation centered at 3N140E to end at EQ152E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring east of Koror and south of Yap between 5N and 8N from 136E to 141E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are taking place along the equator or south of a line from EQ133E to 2N142E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers southwest of Chuuk within 75 miles of a line from 6N146E to 3N152E northeast of Kosrae and near Kwajalein within 100 miles of a line from 8N163E to 8N167E to 4N170E and finally southeast of Majuro within 90 miles of a line from 2N178E to 4N175E to 8N178E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

6:24 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
11:07 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
4:17 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47 AM	6:09 PM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:09 PM
Sunday	6:47 AM	6:10 PM
Monday	6:47 AM	6:10 PM
Tuesday	6:47 AM	6:11 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:36 AM	3:10 PM
Saturday	4:35 AM	4:10 PM
Sunday	5:30 AM	5:10 PM
Monday	6:21 AM	6:08 PM
Tuesday	7:08 AM	7:03 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05062	2:10am	2:40am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	4:15am	5:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
C05074	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05076	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	6:50pm	7:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	7:00pm	7:50pm	3, 6
C05072	9:55pm	10:45pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05072	10:05pm	10:55pm	3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL285	6:35am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:25pm	7:15pm	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
0Z119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
0Z606	2:10am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
0Z604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
0Z608	3:35am	7:05am	4, 7
DL581	4:10am	7:30am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
0Z606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
0Z606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05070/191	4:35am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:25pm	Daily via NRT
C05068/183	8:25am	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05068/183	8:25am	9:40pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C05076/193	3:10pm	11:00pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
0Z604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN
C05072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
C05072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
0Z606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05076/147	3:10pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
0Z604/723	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN
0Z604/749	3:20pm	10:50pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	5:15am	5:45am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
C05062	3:10am	3:45am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
C05062	2:10am	3:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05071	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C05073	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05075	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:30pm	6:20pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:40pm	6:30pm	3, 6
C05079	8:35pm	9:25pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05079	8:45pm	9:35pm	3, 6
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
DL286	7:40pm	12:20am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
0Z120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
0Z603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
0Z605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
0Z605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
0Z607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
DL580	10:10pm	2:55am+1	4, 7
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
C0190/5077	10:55am	6:30pm	3, 6 via GUM
C0190/5079	10:55am	9:35pm	3, 6 via GUM
0Z702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0192/5071	10:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C0184/5071	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
0Z704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
C0184/5071	11:59pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
0Z724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
0Z722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0180/5071	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

22 graduate students pass Braille literacy course

Pacific Vision Instruction faculty and participants are shown, front from left, UMass Boston and UOG faculty Darick Wright M.A.; Laura Bozeman, Ph.D.; Paula Kosior, M.Ed.; Connie Guerrero, M.Ed. (University of Guam CEDDERS); Sandy Smith, M.Ed., C.A.E.S.; Wendy L. Buckley, M.Ed.; and Robert McCulley, M.Ed. Pictured in back row, from left, are Pacific VIP graduate students Lilly Abraham, Norma Santos, Darlene Taimanglo, Joanie Tomasiak, Florina Esiel, Jennifer Shoniber, Lizelle Amirez, Jason Reiong, Jennifer Buniag, Erica Acfalle, Loretta Luta, Diane Artero, Aimina Talley, Chelsea Phillip, Ordelia Pritchard, Sulugia Fa'atau, Sigalu Epenesa, Amy Apati, Tailua Apaisa, and Mekioshy William.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Pacific Vision Instruction Program recently concluded its fall semester with on-site instruction conducted by six visiting University of Massachusetts Boston faculty members at the University of Guam from Dec. 29, 2011, to Jan. 7, 2012.

Twenty graduate students from American Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, and Guam participated in instructional seminars, which focused on Braille literacy, Nemeth Braille code, abacus skills, and teaching orientation and mobility skills.

During the fall semester, scholars participated in online courses in "Visual Functioning" and "Braille II," which concluded with an intense final exam in Guam to test student competency in reading and translating Braille. All passed the exam. Scholars will be reconvening for the spring semester on Jan. 30, 2012, with online courses in "Implications of Low Vision" and "Physical and Functional Aspects of Visual Impairment."

Pacific VIP, a collaboration between University of Guam CEDDERS and UMass Boston, uses a blended delivery approach of online coursework and on-site required class/lab work in Guam, which will be enhanced by integrated field experiences coordinated throughout the academic program. At the end of the four-year program, scholars will earn a Master of Education in Special Education degree, plus dual credentials in Teacher of Visual Impairments and Orientation and Mobility from UMass Boston with the goal of working with students with visual impairments in their respective island communities. ***(UOG)***

Flores eyes Sugar King Park bldg. as souvenir, snack shop

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores is flanked by two students of Moon Deok Elementary School in Seoul, Korea on Tuesday. Flores is looking at renting out the building at the park for use as a souvenir and/or snack shop.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores has announced plans to rent out the building at the Sugar King Park to interested entrepreneurs who want to put up a souvenir and/or snack shop.

Flores said the building has a lot of potential given that the Sugar King Park is well-maintained and is now being used more often by tourists, including students visiting the island as part of cultural exchange programs.

Yesterday and on Tuesday, 14 students from Moon Deok Elementary School in South Korea learned about the local culture by taking part in activities such as weaving, lei, and bead making—all held at the park.

The building, Flores said, was a project of the previous administration. Since then, nobody has rented out the place "because traffic in this area is slow."

"But I already talked to different groups, along with tour agencies, and we're working on putting it together to revive the place for tourists and hopefully rent out the building to potential businesses," Flores told *Saipan Tribune*.

Flores emphasized that he wants to have the building utilized to show that the federal funds used to maintain the park is put to a good use.

The mayor disclosed that they are also working on getting the national flags of the CNMI, United States, Japan, and South Korea flown at the park. "We're trying to get the flags in the next few weeks," he said.

Flores said that he also wants to restore the Sugar King train in collaboration with the Marianas Visitors Authority. He said he talked to MVA managing director Perry Tenorio about the need to restore the train and maintain the park to help entice more tourists.

Flores earlier said that he also plans to put iguanas on the trees at the park as an added tourist attraction.

It's spelled Ossobuco and it's available at the Hyatt

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

ADVERTISING Feature

For this month only, indulge in a special authentic Italian dish at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni's Restaurant, the only authentic Italian restaurant on island, as it joins the rest of the culinary world in celebrating the International Day of Italian Cuisines 2012.

International Day of Italian Cuisines is a reaction against the systematic forgery of Italian cuisine and products, aimed at protecting the right of consumers worldwide to get authentic and quality Italian cuisine in eateries labeled as Italian. It is a tradition launched by the Virtual Group of Italian Chefs, a network of over 1,700 culinary professionals working in 70 countries.

Based on a genuine recipe, Giovanni's will be preparing the Ossobuco in Gremolata alla Milanese, the official dish of the 5th edition of the International Day of Italian Cuisines.

The Italian dish ossobuco in gremolata alla Milanese originates from the Lombardy region and is one of the most counterfeited dishes of Italian traditional cuisine.

The word ossobuco means "hollow-bone" and, in culinary terms, it refers to the Italian dish ossobuco in gremolata alla Milanese, whose basic ingredient is veal shank. It originates from the Lombardy region and is one of the most counterfeited dishes of Italian traditional cuisine.

Hyatt executive chef Gabriele Colombo will lead Giovanni's excellent and dedicated culinary team in preparing Ossobuco in Gremolata alla Milanese for the restaurant's patrons.

Ossobuco will be featured at Giovanni's until the end of the month. It will be served with the restaurant's authentic Parmesan risotto and sautéed green asparagus for $30 per person. Giovanni's recommends pairing the delectable dish with Santa Cristina Toscana or Danzante Chianti for $6 a glass.

Call 234-1234 for reservations or more information.

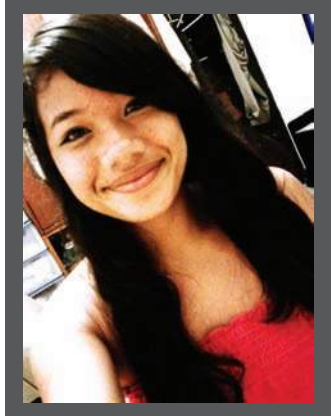
Power outage scheduled for Upper Dandan

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has schedules a four-hour power interruption on Saturday, Jan. 21, 2012, from 8am to 12pm in Upper Dandan, from the San Vicente traffic light (former Round House location) to Domar Store, the entire Upper Dandan Homestead, and Hawaiian Rock to Obyan/Santa Margarita Place. All the Obyan wells will be affected by this power outage.

The purpose of this interruption is to replace the rusted hardware on power poles.

Because of the scale of the work that will be performed, travelers are asked to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the affected areas. CUC apologizes, in advance, for any inconvenience resulting from these projects and the power interruption. ***(CUC)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Happy 14th birthday greetings go out to Melisha Remedio Diaz Lizama! May you have many more birthdays to come. We love you! Greetings come from Mom, Dad, your brothers, and sisters. Greetings also come from the Tyquiengco family and Genicia Mae Agulto.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy 40th birthday to Genoven Vaness Cruz Tyquiengco! May you have many more celebrations to come! Greetings come from your kumaire Daidang Santos.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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CPVC PIPE 1/2" $18.00 • 3/4" $26.00 • 1" $35.00
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DELIVERY CHARGE TO TINIAN-$3.00/BAG
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NISSAN	STOCK #	Color	Discount	HONDA	STOCK #	Color	Discount
Sentra	BL712692	White	$2,500.00	Fit	BC022295	Gray	$2,500.00
~~Rogue SV~~	~~BW17373~~ SOLD	~~Silver~~	~~$3,000.00~~	CRV LX	BC010978	Blue	$3,000.00
~~Rogue Krom~~	~~BW16281~~ SOLD	~~Gray~~	~~$3,000.00~~	~~Accord SE~~	~~BA14061~~ SOLD	~~White~~	~~$3,000.00~~
~~Pathfinder SV~~	~~BC600465~~ SOLD	~~Blue~~	~~$4,000.00~~	Odyssey LX	BB084502	White	$4,000.00
Xterra S	BC500394	Gray	$4,000.00				
				FORD	STOCK #	Color	Discount
KIA	STOCK #	Color	Discount	~~Fiesta S~~	~~BM18572~~ SOLD	~~Silver~~	~~$2,000.00~~
~~Soul Sport~~	~~B7313951~~ SOLD	~~White~~	~~$2,000.00~~	Escape XLS	BKC35087	Blue	$2,500.00
Sedona LX	B6395933	Silver	$3,000.00	Explorer XLT	AUA60809	Silver	$4,000.00

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Lotus 50lbs $25.99

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King Chef Vegetable Oil 5gal $31.99

Chicken Leg Quarter 33lbs $26.99

Pork Spareribs 20lbs $21.99

Baby Spareribs 10lbs $20.99

Whole Chicken 30lbs $37.99

Mega Butane Gas $23.25 CASE

GROCERIES

Nongshin Bowl Noodle $7.99 CASE	Spam All Kinds $2.39 EA	Black Label Luncheon $1.79 EA..	Delmonte Whole Corn 99¢ 15 OZ.	Campbells Chicken Noodle 89¢ 10 OZ.
Libby's Vienna Sausage 69¢ 5 OZ.	Master A1 Tuna $1.39 7 OZ.	Beach Cliff Sardines 99¢	Ox & Palm Corned Beef $2.99 11.5 OZ.	Hormel Mary Kitchen Corned Beef Hash $1.99
Hormel Chili with Beans $1.69 15 OZ.	Hormel Chili No Beans $1.79 15 OZ.	Dinty Moore Beef Stew $1.69 15 OZ.	Dinty Moore Meatball Stew $1.69 15 OZ.	General Mills Big Pack Cereal $7.99
Kellogg's Frosted Flakes $3.79 12 OZ.	Kikkoman Soy Sauce $3.99 1.6 L.	Real Lemon Juice $3.39 EA. 32 OZ.	White Sugar 2kg $2.79 2 KG.	Argo Corn Starch 99¢ 1 LB.

FROZEN

Bar S Jumbo Franks $1.09	Millers Sausage $16.99	Bar S Ham $18.99 10LBS.
Vega Shrimps $5.99 /LB.	Tilipia 99¢ /LB.	Milk Fish $1.49 /LB.

FAMILY BAG

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Chicken Leg Qtr	$ 5.99
Beef Stew	$ 12.99
Pork Hock	$ 6.99
Beef Feet	$ 7.99
Beef Shortribs	$ 15.99
Pork Adobo	$ 9.99
Pork Bellies	$ 11.99
Pork Chop	$ 11.99
Pork Spareribs	$ 6.99

BEVERAGE

Real Fresh Milk 32oz $21.50 CASE	Kool-Aid Jammers $2.99 BOX	Sunkist $6.99 CASE	Pepsi Can $14.99 CASE
Coca Cola Can $13.99 CASE	Bud Light Can $28.50 CASE	Budweiser Can $28.50 CASE	Hite Can $15.99 CASE

NON-FOOD

Clorox Regular $3.69 92 OZ.	Purex $4.99 50 OZ.	Gain Liquid $6.99 50 OZ.	Joy Ultra $1.59 12.5 OZ. $7.99 90 OZ.	Huggies Big $18.99 BOX	Luvs Big $17.99 BOX	Head & Shoulders $5.75 EA. 14 OZ.	Foam Plates $3.29 50 CT $7.99 125 CT	Diamond Aluminum Foil $6.99 200SQ.FT.

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Island Snapshots

MARITIME SECURITY

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP), right, hands a certificate of recognition to U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Detachment Saipan supervisor Lt. John Peterson, left, while U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam Capt. Casey J. White looks on at a brief ceremony at the seaport Wednesday morning.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Transportation Security Administration's Lee Cabrera, left, receives a certificate of recognition from U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam Capt. Casey J. White and Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP).

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A U.S. Customs and Border Protection agent, left, looks on as Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP), right, addresses the crowd. The CBP agent was among the representatives of over 30 entities that received a certificate of recognition from Sablan on Wednesday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP), right, and U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam Capt. Casey J. White, center, congratulate CNMI Customs director Jesus C. Muna, left, as part of Sablan's recognition of the work done by members of the CNMI Area Maritime Security Committee.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Reina Camacho, left, of the Division of Environmental Quality, is all smiles as she receives a certificate of recognition from U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam Capt. Casey J. White and Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP).

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

PREPPING FOR THE POLLS

Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Robert Guerrero discusses with commissioners the importance of designating early the official polling sites for this year's midterm election while board chair Frances Sablan listens during Wednesday's board meeting at the commission's Susupe office.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Jack Salas, left, of IP&E (Shell Marianas) receives a certificate of recognition from U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam Capt. Casey J. White and Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP).

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam Capt. Casey J. White, left, looks on as Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) hands a certificate of recognition to an executive of Mobil Oil Mariana Islands.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday to Jenine Santos Sablan and many more birthdays to come, hope you enjoy your special day. May God bless you and we love you. Greetings come from the Chungi-Batitang family .

Business

No Wikipedia? What if the Internet went down?

WASHINGTON (AP)—If a day without Wikipedia was a bother, think bigger. In this plugged-in world, we would barely be able to cope if the entire Internet went down in a city, state or country for a day or a week.

Sure, we'd survive. People have done it. Countries have, as Egypt did last year during the anti-government protests. And most of civilization went along until the 1990s without the Internet. But now we're so intertwined socially, financially and industrially that suddenly going back to the 1980s would hit the world as hard as a natural disaster, experts say.

No email, Twitter or Facebook. No buying online. No stock trades. No just-in-time industrial shipping. No real-time tracking of diseases. It's gotten so that not just the entire Internet but individual websites such as Google are considered critical infrastructure, experts said.

"Nobody would die, but there would be a major hassle," said computer security expert Mikko Hypponen, chief research officer at F-Secure in Helsinki, Finland.

If an Internet outage lasted more than a day or two, the financial hit would be huge, with mass unemployment, said Ken Mayland, a former chief bank economist and president of ClearView Economics. Eugene Spafford, director of Purdue University's Center for Education and Research in Information Assurance and Security, worries about bank runs and general panic.

Psychologically, too, it could be wrenching.

"I think it's easier to get off heroin," said Lisa Welter of New York City, who weaned herself for a month last year from just the social aspects of the Internet—she still paid bills online—and felt as if she was "living in a cave."

"There would be a sense of loss: What would I do with my time?" said Kimberly Young, a psychologist who directs the Center for Internet Addiction and Recovery.

On Wednesday, certain websites, most prominently Wikipedia, went dark to protest legislation in Congress that would crack down on pirated movies and TV shows. It was a one-day stunt. But it raises questions about our connectedness.

It is possible that hackers, terrorists, accidents or even sunspots could take down the Internet and cause areas to become cut off and unreachable, said Spafford, one of the foremost experts on computer security. The U.S. and other developed nations have multiple and robust routing systems that make it unlikely large areas would be affected, but smaller countries could be vulnerable to nationwide outages, Hypponen said.

The world only has to look back one year to Egypt to see what a sudden unplugging could spawn.

The government of Hosni Mubarak tried to stop protests in January 2011 by switching off the Internet. The shutdown halted businesses, banking operations and—at the height of the demonstrations—the ability of the protest leaders to organize and communicate with one another.

During the five days that the Internet was out, anti-Mubarak activists had to rely on help from abroad to spread their news and update Web pages. The outage harmed protesters' ability to organize or to counter government propaganda that portrayed them as agents of foreign powers, said Ahmed Saleh, who was in charge of managing the Facebook page that was credited with mobilizing thousands of Egyptians to take to the streets.

With the shutdown, the protests swelled as people unable to follow minute-by-minute what was going on took to the streets.

"No Internet meant that more people went down and realized that this was for real. The protests grew, and so did the anger against the government domestically and internationally," Saleh said.

He said the lack of Internet also allowed him to "live the moment" because he was not distracted with tweeting and posting on Facebook or analyzing the situation. This, he said, strengthened real face-to-face connections between people.

Nicholas Christin, associate director of the Information Networking Institute at Carnegie Mellon University, said that while a prolonged Internet outage would be uncomfortable, it might also bring out the best in people.

"I think you would find that people are very resilient," he said. "We would go back to the libraries."

Christin said he has gone a week without the Internet as part of a vacation. The first few days were rough, he said, but then "it was fantastic."

Christin did it by choice. Others had it imposed on them because of weather disasters or financial problems. They weren't nostalgic about it.

For three days, Jill Williams lost the Internet and power because of a California windstorm last month. Her small business requires her to use email to plan events.

"Those three days I felt deprived," she recalled in an email, responding to a Twitter request for anecdotes about going Internet-less. "The Internet has totally consumed my life, both business as well as pleasure."

Wyatt McMahon of the Virginia Bioinformatics Institute at Virginia Tech University was having a hard time Wednesday just dealing with the shutdown at Wikipedia, which he leans on as a first step in his searches in his field, which combines statistics and biology.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Obama rejects Canada-Texas oil pipeline—for now

WASHINGTON (AP)—In a politically explosive decision, President Barack Obama on Wednesday rejected plans for a massive oil pipeline through the heart of the United States, ruling there was not enough time for a fair review before a looming deadline forced on him by Republicans. His move did not kill the project but could again delay a tough choice for him until after the November elections. Right away, the implications rippled across the political spectrum, stirred up the presidential campaign and even hardened feelings with Canada, a trusted U.S. ally and neighbor. For a U.S. electorate eager for work, the pipeline has become the very symbol of job creation for Republicans, but Obama says the environment and public safety must still be weighed too. The plan by Calgary-based TransCanada Corp. would carry tar sands oil from western Canada across a 1,700-mile pipeline across six U.S. states to Texas refineries.

Major oil refinery to close in US Virgin Islands

ST. CROIX, U.S. Virgin Islands (AP)—One of the world's largest oil refineries will close next month, the company announced Wednesday, stunning nearly 2,000 workers and threatening to upend the reeling economy of the U.S. Virgin Islands. Industry analysts said the closure is unlikely to have a major effect on the global oil market, but Gov. John de Jongh described the loss of the territory's largest private employer as "a complete body blow" for the U.S. territory of about 108,000 people. He said Hovensa generated a minimum of $60 million a year in revenue for the government, which recently laid of hundreds of public workers due to a budget crisis.

Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot No. 094 D 03, containing an area of approximately 951 square meters, more or less, situated in Garapan, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is Man Bao Corporation, a CNMI Corporation. The Directors of the Corporation are Cheung, Pingyin and Yuan, Beihua.

The President/Treasurer of the Corporation is Cheung, Pingyin and the Vice-President/Secretary is Yuan, Beihua.

iii. The proposed lease was negotiated by Mr. Antonio Rasiang.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of developing and managing a facility with several business activities such as tour agency, a restaurant, a car rental, automobile repair shop, and related operations.

The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years, with an option to extend the lease for an additional 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property, including existing structure(s).

v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Garapan, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before January 26, 2012 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIA PUT MAPROPONIN INEKSTENDIN INATKILON TANU' PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106(b) gi Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipattamentun Tånu' Pupbliku guini ha nå'i nutisia ni intensionña para u mana'ma'atkila pumalu na tånu' pupbliku siha giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Marianas siha. Maseha håyi na pattida siha gi halum i pupbliku henerât siña ha na'hålum i imfotmasion, opiñon, pat testamoñun kinentra siha gi tinahguin propositu siha ni para i atkilon tånu' pupbliku. Sigi mås mo'na mapribeniyi ginin i Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesin imfotmasion ni madimånda ni debi na u mapupblika.

i. I maproponi na atkilon tånu' pupbliku ha diskribi kumu Lot No. Lot No. 094 D 03, ni kinonsisti åria kåsi guaha 951 square meters, mås pat menus, ni gaigi giya Garapan, Saipan. I kopian i lugåt gaigi gi pumalu na gumuaha gi Dipattamentun Tånu' Pupbliku siha ni para i rikunosimientu.

ii. I manatkikila i Man Bao Corporation, CNMI Corporation. I Direktot i Corporation siha si Cheung, Pingyin yan si Yuan Beihua.

I Presidenti /Tresureru gi Corporation si Cheung, Pingyin yan i Sigundu Presidenti/Sekritåriu si Yuan, Beihua.

iii. I maproponi na atkilon manigosiu gi as Siñot Antonio Rasiang.

iv. I manatkikila debi na u usa o lugåt solamienti para hinangai developing yan managing facility yan pulu aktibidåt bisnis siha tåtkumu our agency, sagan chumotchu, atkilon kareta, shop manareklan tumobit.

I teman i maproponi na kuntråtan atkilon sa' 25 åñus, yan option para u ma'ekstendi i atkilon gi ta'lu 15 åñus.

I maproponi na åpas atkilon gi sakkan gi durântin i tema sigun gi percentage gi appraised fair market value gi propiedåt, ingklusu i prisenti na estroktura.

v. Kopian i manmaproponi na kontråtan atkilon siña machuli' gi ufisinan i Dipattamentun Tånu' Pupbliku siha, gaigi gi sigundu bibienda 2nd floor gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan; gi Songsong Village, Luta; pat i primet 1st bibienda gi Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. I Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha tåya' na ha risibi tinahguin propositu siha para sinuhetun atkilon tanu' pupbliku siha giya Garapan, Saipan.

vii. I Sekritåriun i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha debi na u aksepta i tinigi' i imfotmasion, opiñon yan testamoñun kinentra pat tinahguin propositu siha ginin i manggai interes na pattida siha gi pat åntis di Ineru 26, 2012 gi ufisinan Dipattamentun Tånu' Pupbliku siha ni gaigi Saipan, Luta, pat Tinian.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil ye 106(b) mellól Alléghul Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, ekke atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipel, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Schóókka remuschál emwal rebwe isisilong yaar mángemáng , data awewee, me angiingi reel pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap. Sengi Alléghul Toulap ye 15-2, ebwal ayoora, lamal awewee kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatéélo.

i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap nge ekke bwáári Lot No. 094 D 03, eyoor tiwabwughúw limeigh me eew laapal(951 square meters) elapeló me ngáre eghús, elo Arabwal, Seipel. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngáre óubwe ghuley fischiy.

ii. Schéschéél schóól akkilón nge Man Bao, eew CNMI Corporation. Schóól assamwoolul Coporation nge Cheung, Pingyin , me Yuan, Beihua.

Samwoolul/Treseróru (President/Treasurer) Coporation nge Cheung, Pingyin me aruschayúl Samwool/Sekkretaria (Vice President/Secretary) nge Yuan, Beihua.

iii. Schóól aweweey akkilon yel nge Mr. Antonio Rasiang.

iv. Schóól akkilon ebwe yááyá falúw yeel rel ebwe ayoora me lemeli eew facilidóód il business rel tour agency, leliyal mwungo(restaurant), car rental, ferúl ghareta (automobile repair shop) me bwal akkaw mwóghutughut.

Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon nge reweigh me limoow ráágh (25 years). Emmwel rebwe bwal sóóbwey ngáli seigh me limoow ráágh (15 years).

Pomwol méél akkilon nge ebwe mwiril sángi percentage il yaal appraised fair market value il falúw, me bwal meta kka e akkayu llól bwuley yeel.

v. Tilighial akkilon yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi merel bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llól Tuturam, Seipél; Songsong village, Luuta; me ngáre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.

vi. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye elo Arabwal, Seipél.

vii. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughi ischil mángemáng, aingiingil merel amweyút mmwal Eneero (January) 26, 2012 mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta, Tchúlúyól.

Nation

Romney tries to sidestep tax furor

SPARTANBURG, S.C. (AP)—Mitt Romney tried doggedly Wednesday to sidestep the political furor he had started a day earlier by revealing he pays federal taxes at a rate of about 15 percent, less than millions of middle-income American families.

Facing a new controversy, his campaign confirmed that Romney has money invested in the Cayman Islands but said he was not getting any tax break.

Newt Gingrich, his main rival in this weekend's South Carolina primary, poked at Romney anew and disclosed that he personally pays more than twice what Romney does.

■ ■ ■ ■

GREENVILLE, S.C. (AP)—Texas Gov. Rick Perry said Wednesday that Mitt Romney changed his position on legalized abortion out of political convenience, one of the sharpest allegations leveled yet in the South Carolina GOP presidential primary.

Romney, who had supported legalized abortion while Massachusetts governor, says he changed his mind after weighing legislation that "would have created new embryos for the purpose of destroying them."

Perry, who is struggling to keep his presidential hopes alive, has criticized Romney before, but not always so pointedly. He told an anti-abortion forum in Greenville, S.C., that it's hard to understand how a public official could change his views on something as fundamental as abortion in his 50s, after decades to think about it.

Romney

■ ■ ■ ■

Just before Saturday's South Carolina voting, Romney is trying to wrap up his push for the Republican nomination, but it's been anything but smooth. He's spent nearly two weeks answering questions and criticism about his personal wealth and tenure at Bain Capital, the private equity firm he founded, and those subjects are sure to come up again in Thursday night's debate.

Gingrich slapped at the GOP front-runner, saying in Winnsboro that he himself paid 31 percent of his income in taxes for 2010, more than twice what Romney said he paid. Gingrich's campaign said the 31 percent was the effective federal rate on income, apparently not including Social Security payroll taxes.

Gingrich told reporters that he is not criticizing Romney for paying a tax rate below what many wage-earning Americans pay. Gingrich has proposed a plan that would give Americans the option of paying a 15 percent flat tax—which he notes is the same rate Romney is citing.

"My goal is not to raise Mitt Romney's taxes but to let everyone pay Romney's rate," Gingrich said.

Panetta: US 'fully prepared' for an Iran challenge

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. military is now "fully prepared" to deal with any Iranian effort to close the Strait of Hormuz, a vital Persian Gulf avenue for international oil shipments, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said Wednesday.

At a Pentagon news conference, Panetta was asked whether, in light of Iran's threat to close the strait in retaliation for stronger international economic sanctions, Washington is adjusting U.S. forces in the region.

"We are not making any special steps at this point in order to deal with the situation," Panetta replied. "Why? Because, frankly, we are fully prepared to deal with that situation now." He noted that routine planning continues as the U.S. and its allies consider a range of potential Iran-related problems.

The Navy this month added a second aircraft carrier strike group in the Middle East, portraying it as part of a normal rotation and not a deliberate buildup of force. The carriers are the USS Carl Vinson and the USS Abraham Lincoln, under the control of U.S. Naval Forces Central Command in Bahrain.

The U.S. has kept a continuous naval presence in the Gulf region for decades, but international concerns about a potential confrontation have grown amid tensions over the advancement of Iran's nuclear program.

The U.S. also has military forces in nearby United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait and other Gulf nations.

Iran's Revolutionary Guard, the country's most powerful military force, says Tehran's leadership has decided to order the closure of the Strait of Hormuz if Iran's oil exports are blocked as a result of sanctions. A senior Guard officer said earlier this month that the decision has been made by Iran's top authorities.

Iranian politicians have made the threat in the past, but this was the strongest statement yet that a closure of the strait is official policy.

In his remarks at the Pentagon, Panetta said he still holds out hope for a diplomatic solution with Iran.

"It takes two to be able to engage, and we've always expressed a willingness to try to do that," he said. "But we've always made clear that in terms of any threats to the region, in terms of some of the behavior that they've conducted in the region, that we'll also be prepared to respond militarily if we have to."

ACROSS THE NATION

NYC killer gets 200 years in 2011 violence spree

NEW YORK (AP)—A 24-year-old man who admitted killing four people and wounding four others in a stabbing rampage in New York City last winter was sentenced to 200 years in prison Wednesday as he cackled and insulted his victims, disrespected the judge and insisted he wasn't the bad guy. Maksim Gelman, born in Ukraine, pleaded guilty in November in Brooklyn to murder and other charges in a two-day spree that included stabbing his stepfather and two others to death, fatally running down a pedestrian, stealing a car and attacking a subway passenger. On Wednesday, he got the maximum sentence for each of 13 counts; some of the sentences will run consecutively, resulting in the 200-year term. He was awaiting sentencing on the subway assault, which occurred in Manhattan.

2nd hand found in LA park where human head found

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Police searched for more body parts Wednesday after finding two human hands in the Hollywood hills where a head in a plastic bag was discovered by dog walkers. The first hand was discovered in Bronson Canyon as dozens of police officers, including homicide investigators, combed the brush along a winding trail a few miles below the Hollywood sign. A coroner's cadaver dog found it about 50 yards from where the head was discovered on Tuesday afternoon, the Los Angeles Times reported. Details weren't immediately available on where the second hand was found later Tuesday afternoon, or what condition it was in.

Asia

Book claims Kim's eldest fears NKorea may collapse

TOKYO (AP)—A new book claims that the eldest son of North Korea's late leader Kim Jong Il believes the impoverished regime is in danger of collapse and that his young half-brother, chosen to lead after Kim's death, is merely a figurehead.

The book by Tokyo-based journalist Yoji Gomi went on sale Wednesday. He says it is based primarily on email exchanges he had with Kim Jong Nam over many years.

The book, titled "My Father, Kim Jong Il, and Me," drew immediate attention as a rare view into the family that has led the secretive country for decades—though Kim Jong Nam is thought to be estranged from his family and the workings of government. Since Kim Jong Il's death Dec. 17, North Korea has been led by his youngest son, Kim Jong Un.

"Jong Un will just be a figurehead," the book quotes Kim Jong Nam as saying. It claims he said the collapse of North Korea's economy is likely unless it initiates reforms, which could also bring it down.

"Without reforms and liberalization, the collapse of the economy is within sight," he quoted Kim as saying. "But reforms and opening up could also invite dangers for the regime."

AP

Copies of a new book on the eldest son of North Korea's late leader Kim Jong Il by Tokyo-based journalist Yoji Gomi are sold at a book store in Tokyo as it goes on sale Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2012.

Gomi, a Tokyo Shimbun journalist who had assignments in Seoul and Beijing, claims he exchanged 150 emails and has spent a total of seven hours interviewing Kim Jong Nam, who was seen as a possible successor until he fell out of favor with Kim Jong Il in 2001.

Gomi says he met Kim Jong Nam in person in 2004, in Beijing, and twice last year. Gomi was not immediately available for comment on the book.

Not long after Kim Jong Il's funeral, Jong Nam suggested in an interview with a Japanese TV network that he opposes a hereditary transfer of power to his young half-brother, who is believed to be in his late 20s.

That was a rare public sign of discord in the tightly choreographed succession process, but analysts said Jong Nam spends so much time outside his native land that his opinion carries little weight.

Kim Jong Nam, who did not attend the funeral, made similar comments in his communications with Gomi, the book claims.

NATO: Taliban chief has lost control of insurgents

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Dozens of civilians, NATO coalition troops and Afghan security forces were killed and wounded Wednesday when a suicide attacker blew himself up in a bazaar, according to the top commander of international troops in Afghanistan, who alleged that the Taliban's leader had "lost all control" of his footsoldiers.

U.S. Gen. John Allen condemned the attack in Kajaki district of Helmand province and said it was evidence that the insurgents had "declared outright war" on the Afghan people. While the Taliban work to intimidate civilians and kill anyone aligned with the Afghan government, the U.S.-led coalition emphasizes that civilians deaths should weaken the Taliban's appeal.

Daud Ahmadi, a provincial spokesman, said a suicide bomber on a motorcycle killed 12 Afghans, including two policeman, and wounded at least 23 other people.

A statement released late Wednesday by NATO headquarters in Kabul said the explosion killed and injured dozens of Afghan civilians, Afghan national security forces and coalition troops. The statement did not disclose further details about how many foreign troops had been killed or wounded.

"With today's horrendous attack at the Kajaki Sofla Bazaar, insurgents have once again destroyed the lives of dozens of innocent Afghan civilians," Allen said in the statement. "These attacks against the people of Afghanistan have no effect on the progress we are together making here with our Afghan partners and will only further isolate the Taliban from the process of peace negotiation."

Taliban leader Mohammad Mullah Omar "has lost all control over Taliban insurgents, otherwise he would immediately denounce these attacks and order his forces to stop attacking innocent Afghan civilians," Allen said.

More than a year ago, Omar, the Taliban's one-eyed, reclusive leader, did urge his fighters to try to avoid killing innocent civilians.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Suu Kyi registers for seat in Myanmar's Parliament

THANLYIN, Myanmar (AP)—Ecstatic cheers of "Long Live Aung San Suu Kyi!" echoed through the streets of this impoverished Yangon suburb Wednesday as she registered for elections, a sign of how vastly Myanmar has changed since the junta gave up power after decades of iron-fisted rule. Throngs of flag-waving supporters crowded the local election office to shout support and glimpse the 66-year-old Nobel Peace laureate, who became Myanmar's most recognizable face during years of house arrest under authoritarian rule.

Pakistan scandal's latest twist: naked wrestling

ISLAMABAD (AP)—A scandal over a secret memo to Washington that could bring down the Pakistani president took a strange turn Wednesday when a music video surfaced featuring the chief accuser acting as a commentator for a naked female wrestling bout. Opponents of Mansoor Ijaz, an American of Pakistani origin, said the clip damaged his credibility ahead of his scheduled appearance at a Supreme Court commission in this conservative Muslim country. The Florida-born businessman has pledged to provide damning evidence that the Pakistani government sent the note seeking U.S. help preventing a military coup in the aftermath of the American raid that killed Osama bin Laden on May 2, 2011.

World

Tales emerge of missing and dead in ship disaster

ROME (AP)—An Italian dad and his 5-year-old daughter. A retired American couple treating themselves after putting four children through college. A Hungarian musician who helped crying children into lifejackets, then disappeared while trying to retrieve his beloved violin from his cabin.

As details emerged Wednesday about the missing and the dead in the grounding of the Costa Concordia, the captain was quoted as saying he tripped and fell into the water from the listing vessel and never intended to abandon his passengers.

The search for the 21 people still unaccounted for in the disaster ground to a halt after the cruise liner shifted again on its rocky perch off the Tuscan island of Giglio, making it too dangerous for divers to continue. Rough seas were forecast for the next few days.

The bad weather also postponed the start of the weekslong operation to extract the half-million gallons of fuel on board the vessel, as Italy's environment minister warned Parliament of the ecological implications if the ship sinks.

The $450 million Costa Concordia was carrying more than 4,200 passengers and crew when it slammed into a reef and capsized Friday after the captain made an unauthorized diversion from his programmed route and strayed into the perilous waters.

Capt. Francesco Schettino, who was jailed after he left the ship before everyone was safely evacuated, was placed under house arrest Tuesday, facing possible charges of manslaughter, causing a shipwreck and abandoning his ship.

The ship's operator, Crociere Costa SpA, has accused Schettino of causing the wreck by making the unapproved detour, and the captain has acknowledged carrying out what he called a "tourist navigation" that brought the ship closer to Giglio. Costa has said such a navigational "fly by" was done last Aug. 9-10, after being approved by the company and Giglio port authorities.

However, Lloyd's List Intelligence, a leading maritime publication, said Wednesday its tracking of the ship's August route showed it actually took the Concordia slightly closer to Giglio than the course that caused Friday's disaster.

"This is not a black-and-white case," Richard Meade, editor of Lloyd's List, said in a statement.

"Our data suggests that both routes took the vessel within 200 meters (yards) of the impact point and that the authorized route was actually closer to shore."

AP

The cruise ship Costa Serena passes offshore as its sister ship Costa Concordia lies on its side off the tiny Tuscan island of Giglio, Italy, Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2012.

Iranian lawmaker: Obama proposed talks; US denies

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—An Iranian lawmaker claimed Wednesday that President Barack Obama called for direct talks with Iran in a secret letter to the Islamic Republic's supreme leader that also warned Tehran against closing the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

Obama administration officials denied there was such a letter.

Iran has threatened to close the waterway, the route for about one-sixth of the global oil flow, because of new U.S. sanctions over its nuclear program.

Conservative lawmaker Ali Motahari revealed the content of the letter days after the Obama administration said it was warning Iran through public and private channels against any action that threatens the flow of oil from the Persian Gulf.

"In the letter, Obama called for direct talks with Iran," the semiofficial Fars news agency quoted Motahari as saying Wednesday. "The letter also said that closing the Strait of Hormuz is (Washington's) red line."

"The first part of the letter contains threats and the second part contains an offer for dialogue," he added.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast confirmed that Tehran received the letter and was considering a possible response.

In Washington, an Obama administration official denied that Obama sent a letter to Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, saying communication of U.S. views were being delivered through other diplomatic messages. The official would give no further details. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue.

National Security Council spokesman Tommy Vietor pointed to earlier comments from the Obama administration that noted the U.S. had a number of ways to communicate its views to the Iranian government. He said the U.S. remained committed to engaging with Tehran and finding a diplomatic solution to its larger issues with Iran's nuclear program.

Spokesmen have been vague on what the United States would do about Iran's threat to block the strategic Strait of Hormuz, but military officials have been clear that the U.S. is readying for a possible naval clash.

Iran's Revolutionary Guard, the country's most powerful military force, says Tehran's leadership has decided to order the closure of the oil route if Iran's oil exports are blocked. A senior Guard officer said earlier this month that the decision has been made by Iran's top authorities.

Iranian politicians have made the threat in the past, but this was the strongest statement yet that a closure of the strait is official policy.

WORLD BRIEFS

Yemen FM says no delay in presidential election

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—Yemen's presidential elections will be held as scheduled toward the end of February, the foreign minister said on Wednesday, countering his own observation a day earlier. Foreign Minister Abu Bakr al-Qirbi, a veteran of President Ali Abdullah Saleh's regime, told Al-Arabiya television on Tuesday that it would difficult to have presidential elections if the security situation is not resolved. After a series of meetings with American and U.N diplomats, al-Qirbi backtracked, saying that his government was committed to holding presidential elections on February 21.

Crucial debt talks resume in Athens

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—The Greek government resumed stalled talks with its private creditors in Athens on Wednesday in the hope of sealing a euro100 billion ($128 billion) debt relief deal needed to avoid a disastrous default this spring. Charles Dallara, a top official at the Institute of International Finance, a global banking association, returned to Greece after negotiations stalled last week, and held a nearly three-hour meeting with Prime Minister Lucas Papademos and Finance Minister Evangelos Venizelos. "A very crucial meeting, that lasted several hours, has just finished at the prime minister's office," Venizelos told Parliament shortly afterward. "The meetings between the Greek government and the IIF have resumed and they will continue (Thursday)."

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Attorney for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, Plaintiff,
vs.
DAVID O. SABLAN and BERNADITA M. SABLAN, Defendants.

Civil Action No. 03-0365B

NOTICE OF AUCTION

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, hereinafter referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice that all of the right, title, and interest of the Defendants David O. Sablan and Bernadita M. Sablan in the following described, real property situated in San Antonio, Saipan, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Lot No. 004 I 05 (formerly Block 3, Lot 5), containing an area of 479 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 004 I 00, the original of which was registered March 1, 1971, as Document No. 715 at Land Registry, Saipan, including all improvements, appurtenances and easements therewith.

The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at CDA's Conference Room, Saipan, at 2:00 p.m., on Friday, January 20, 2012, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. **Minimum Bid. No minimum opening bid.**
2. Reserve. The auction shall be held with reserve.
3. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana islands governing auctions with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction:
   a) To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
   b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c) To reject, on behalf of the seller, any and all bids.
4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Manuel A. Sablan, Executive Director, Commonwealth Development Authority, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7145, Fax 235-7147; or to F. Matthew Smith, P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
5. Deposit; Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check or credit card[1]. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.
6. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and CDA reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
7. **Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact CDA for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of David O. Sablan and Bernadita M. Sablan in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty, and subject to the redemption laws of the CNMI. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.**

Dated this 2nd day of November 2011.

/S/ RAMON C. MAFNAS, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety

[1] MasterCard and VISA only: a 2% processing fee will be charged on credit card payment(s).

Off The Wall

NJ mom gives birth to child on train to NYC

NEW YORK (AP)—A New Jersey woman got the morning commute of her life when she gave birth to her first child on a PATH commuter train to New York.

The 31-year-old woman, Rabita Sarkar, of Harrison, N.J., said she had started feeling contraction-like pains but didn't think they were real because her baby wasn't due yet. She and her 30-year-old husband decided to travel into the city to have her checked out Monday.

They didn't want to drive and decided to take the train from Harrison into the city instead, thinking they could then take a taxi to Manhattan's Roosevelt Hospital, where her doctors are.

"It's just that this guy had other plans, and he came out earlier," Sarkar said as she held her infant son in her arms in the hospital. The couple declined to reveal the boy's name or due date.

AP

In an image made from WABC-TV video a baby is shown in a hospital in New York after being born on a PATH commuter train to New York Monday Jan. 16, 2011. The parents declined to give their names.

It was on the train ride that Sarkar started feeling her pains come more quickly, and she told her husband to check what was happening to her. He looked and saw that his son's head had already started to come out.

With guidance from another woman on the train, her husband, identified in published reports as Aditya Saurabh, was able to deliver the baby around 10 a.m. Fellow riders offered encouragement, and the couple said one little girl offered her jacket to keep the baby warm.

PATH officials turned the train into an express, bypassing most stops so that it would get to its final stop, 33rd Street in midtown Manhattan, as soon as possible. Emergency services personnel met the train and took the family to the hospital.

The responding police officers said it wasn't unusual for women to give birth in facilities run by the Port Authority.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Air Jordan shoe collection heisted from NC home

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—A Charlotte, N.C., man says 30 pairs of Nike Air Jordan sneakers still in their boxes that he's been collecting since middle school have been heisted. WCNC-TV reports that 22-year-old Bryant Toala told police that someone broke into a home Monday night and took the shoes that he says could be worth more than $10,000. The burglars came in through a bedroom window and made off with the boxes that Toala says were hidden. He says a collection of baseball hats that matched the shoes was also taken. Charlotte-Mecklenburg police say they have no suspects.

Wis. man arrested for playing too much cowbell

OSHKOSH, Wis. (AP)—Demonstrators calling for the recall of Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker learned there really is such a thing as too much cowbell. Oshkosh police arrested a 26-year-old Appleton man on Thursday after he kept playing a cowbell and shaking it in an officer's face when he and other protesters were told to be quiet. The Oshkosh Northwestern reports that when the officer tried to take the cowbell, the man pushed the officer. A 25-year-old Appleton woman then hit the officer in the back with her picket sign while the man was being handcuffed. Both were taken to the Winnebago County Jail.

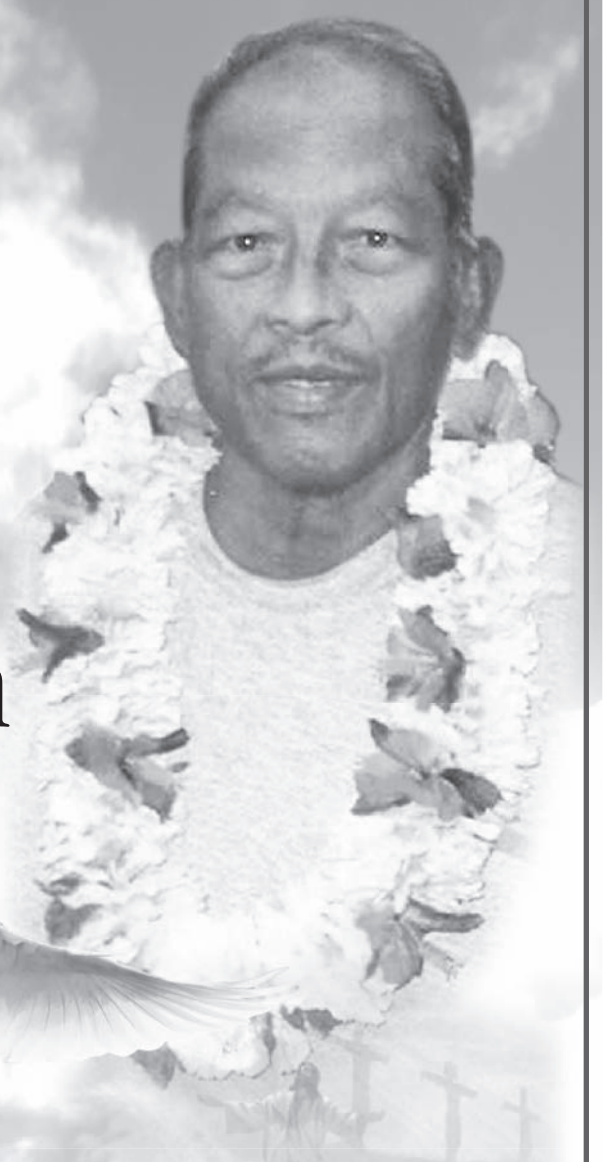
Out of room, Mass. man gives up 94 hamsters

LAWRENCE, Mass. (AP)—A Massachusetts man has turned over 94 hamsters to a local animal shelter, telling officials he was running out of room in his apartment. The director of the shelter says the rodents were well cared for and will make nice pets. Shelter director Mike Keiley tells the Eagle-Tribune that the hamsters' owner, whom he didn't identify, stopped by this month and said he had a lot of hamsters to surrender. A Lawrence animal control officer says the man was "overwhelmed" when officials came to get the hamsters Friday, and initially wanted to keep a few. But she says he changed his mind. Officials say the man started keeping the hamsters about five years ago.

Ginen I Korason-Mame

We are blessed with God's gift of relatives and friends, from near and far who have come to be with us to share the mourning of our dearly beloved Father, Grandfather and Great-Grandfather:

†Leon Inos Taisacan



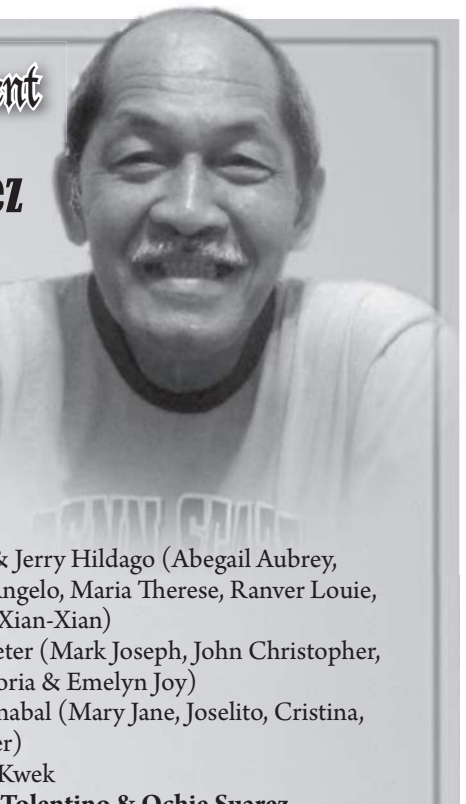
Your thoughtfulness and unselfish support in expressing your sympathy and condolences during the mass and rosary have greatly helped us in bearing the sorrow of our loss. Your prayers and time spent with us lighten the endurance of our pain and our loneliness. He will be truly missed by all of us.

Although it is still hard to believe he is gone, we are comforted in knowing that he has returned to God our Father. And as each new day begins, we look forward to keeping our dearly beloved's spirit alive and his fond memories never to be forgotten. Your kindness and love will forever be treasured as we keep them close to our hearts and we ask Almighty God to shower us all with His grace and blessings as we move forward with our lives.

Un Dangkulo Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase
I Famagu' on yan I Famagu' on-niha

Death and Funeral Announcement

In Loving Memory of
Buenaventura Cortez Suarez
Also known as "Ben"
July 15, 1943 – January 15, 2012



In his new Life, he now joins his:
Father: Crispin M. Suarez
Mother: Flordeliza C. Suarez
Brothers: Bogart C. Suarez
Rolly C. Suarez

His memories will live forever in the hearts of his:
Wife: **Victoria B. Suarez**
Children: **Maria Veronica** B. Suarez & Jerry Hildago (Abegail Aubrey, Hazel Fay Hanah, Michael Angelo, Maria Therese, Ranver Louie, Ranica Lyn, Jenica Isabel & Xian-Xian)
Jocelyn S. Jeter & Perry S. Jeter (Mark Joseph, John Christopher, Stevie Jocelyn, Newlyn Victoria & Emelyn Joy)
Irene B. Suarez & Gerry Canabal (Mary Jane, Joselito, Cristina, Justin, Rico Yan & Felixander)
Buenavic B. Suarez & John Kwek
Rosemarie Suarez, Arlene Tolentino & Ochie Suarez
Brothers & Sisters: Aurora Tolentino & Family
Dick Suarez & Family
Bebe Suarez & Family
Romeo Suarez & Family
Cynthia Suarez & Family
Friend: Jess "Ninong"

Nightly Rosary will be at Jeter Residence in Dandan at 8:00pm. Mass offering will be at Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 9:00am on January 22 and 29.

On January 29, 2012, starting 3:00pm, viewing and last respects will be at Borja Funeral Home. His remains will be repatriated to Guam on January 31, 2012 for cremation.

Your presence, thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Children & Family

Science & Technology

New sensation: Phones that let you feel the world

By PETER SVENSSON
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Sure, today's phones can deliver the sound of a heartbeat. But how would you like to actually feel the throbbing?

A few companies want to replace the crude vibration motors in today's phones and tablets with something that provides a much wider range of sensations, allowing you to feel the rumble of a Harley or the reverberation of a shotgun blast. The new technology can even let you feel the outlines of a button on the screen.

At the International Consumer Electronics Show, the gigantic gadget conclave in Las Vegas this week, a company called Artificial Muscle Inc. demonstrated how it can make mobile devices shake and rattle with great realism, employing a technology that uses plastics that function like muscles.

The company showed off an iPhone it had modified by placing one of its Vivitouch "motors" inside. The phone shook as it ran a simple ball-rolling game. The plastic muscle provided the feeling not just of the ball hitting the walls of a maze, but of the slight vibration it made while rolling freely across the floor.

When it was used for typing, the phone gave a buzzing sensation that confirmed each press of the virtual keys.

In another demonstration, a Vivitouch motor shook a modified Xbox controller to allow the user to feel what it's like to hold a beating heart. In another instance, it let the user experience the signature rumble of a Harley-Davidson motorcycle starting up.

The vibration engines that go into today's phones and game controllers consist of an electric motor that spins a metal weight. They take time to start up and are effective at only one frequency. That means they are unable to provide varying sensations. It's pretty much the same rumble or buzz every time.

With Vivitouch motors, users will have "high-definition feel," says Dirk Schapeter, CEO of Artificial Muscle.

The company is owned by German chemical giant Bayer AG and is a spinoff from SRI International. (Another technology from this California-based research institute was integrated into the iPhone last year: Siri, the virtual personal assistant that talks to you.)

Artificial Muscle's motors contain strips of "muscle." When an electric charge is applied over the strips, they expand and contract at a frequency that can be precisely controlled.

The first product to use Vivitouch came out in September. It's the Mophie Pulse, a sleeve for the iPod Touch that's intended to make games more lifelike.

The next step for the company is to get the motor built into phones. Schapeter says there will be a couple of those on the market this year, from companies he wouldn't identify. He did not say how much the Vivitouch would cost.

Artificial Muscle isn't the only company trying to cause a sensation. Senseg OY of Finland has an exotic way of turning electricity into feeling. By applying a (non-shocking) electric field through the screen of a tablet, it can provide resistance to the movement of the user's finger. So a glossy, smooth screen can suddenly feel rough.

"The palette of effects that's available is enormous," says David Rice, vice president of marketing at Senseg.

The feature should be easy to add to tablets, since it consists solely of a chip and an additional coating on the screen, Rice says. The company is in talks with tablet makers. It might be included in products due late this year. He would not say how much it would add to the price.

The technology could help users "feel" a scroll bar, for instance, or the boundaries of an image. Each letter in a text message could register as a little "bump," making it easier to select parts of the text.

Or the slingshot you pull back to fire an angry bird could register more and more resistance the farther you pull it back, Rice suggests.

"It's little things. It's not something that's going to immediately blow you away," Rice says. But if it becomes pervasive, it'll be something "you'll recognize when it's gone."

(AP PHOTO/JULIE JACOBSON)
A tablet made my Senseg is demonstrated at the 2012 International CES tradeshow, Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2012, in Las Vegas. The tablet gives the user tactile feedback at the touch of the screen.

More sharing comes to Facebook with new apps

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Facebook is adding a bevy of new applications to let users share everything from photos of what they cooked for dinner, what they are wearing or what concert they scored tickets to.

The world's largest online social network unveiled more than 60 new apps Wednesday that let users share the tiniest details of their lives on their Facebook profiles, now known as their Timeline.

Facebook users can already share the music they are listening to through apps such as Spotify, or the articles they are reading through Yahoo News and other services. Wednesday's announcement expands the number of available apps.

Facebook has called it "frictionless sharing." It means once you sign up for the apps, they'll automatically share your activity through Facebook. The apps include Ticketmaster, Rotten Tomatoes and Pinterst.

IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE

†Urbano Crisostimo Babauta, Sr.

May 04, 1936 – January 14, 2012

His Memories will forever live in the hearts of his
Wife: Dolores Duenas Babauta
Children, Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren:
Teresita B. and John Bungcayao (Brenda, Brandon)
†Juan D. and Maribeth F. Babauta (Lestor John/ Mirelle – Skyler, Lirelle), (Kristal Ann, Janee Marie)
Ana M. and Greg Dawes
Jesus D. and Frances C. Babauta (Therese Ann, Tanya Lynn, Brandon Jay, Christopher Jerome, Tiara Jaime, Alexander Jude)
Maria B. and Oscar M. Masga (Desiree Ann – Kody Jack), (Andrew Steven/Clarissa–Anissa Faith), (Doreen Marie), (Oscar Jr. / Dianalynn – Travis Mark), (Darcy Christine)
Urbano D. Jr. and Lavena C. Babauta (Ashley Caitlyn, Alyssa Carolyn)
Concepcion B. and Edward Basa Sr. (Natasha Rachel, Edlyne Nicole, Edward Jr., Dolores Soledad)

In his new life, he now joins his:
Parents: Juan Aguon and Concepcion Crisostimo Babauta
Mother-In-Law: Maria Cruz Duenas
Sister: Victorina Babauta
Son: Juan Duenas Babauta

He is also survived by:
Brothers, Sisters and In-Laws:
Roke C. and †Adela DLC. Babauta, Joaquin C. and Remedio C. Babauta, Maria B. and Vicente Songsong, Luis C. Babauta, †Magdalena Noor, Ines Duenas, George and †Margarita Duenas, Bernadita C. and Jesus Taitano, Alexandro C. and Carmen Castro, Agusta Cruz, Fernando C. Ada, Barbara Cruz

He will also be missed be numerous nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Daily Mass of Intentions are being celebrated every morning at 6:00am at Kristo Rai Church and at San Vicente Church at 6:00pm.

Funeral Services will be held on Monday, January 23, 2012. His remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 7:30am to Kristo Rai Church. Responso Service will be at 7:45am followed by Holy Rosary at 8:00am. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00am. Interment Services will be at Sanctuario Pax Memorial Gardens in Kagman where he will be at a peaceful rest.

Please join us in prayers,

Dolores "Ling" Duenas Babauta
Children and Family

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Haywire

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:30
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:30
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Monday thru Thursday		4:10	7:10	

Gina Carano, Michael Douglas
Thriller, Spy film • Rated R

Synopsis

Mixed martial arts fighter Gina Carano makes her feature-film debut as a lethal government contractor who's betrayed by her own agency in this action thriller from writer Lem Dobbs (The Limey) and director Steven Soderbergh (Traffic, Contagion). Mallory Kane (Carano) is the woman the U.S. government calls on to take care of their dirty work. She's fast, efficient, and—perhaps most important of all—clean. But when Mallory makes the mistake of saving a Chinese journalist from certain death, she becomes an enemy to the very same government she once served. Mallory isn't going down without a fight, though, and after a close brush with death, she realizes that the only way to save her own life is to reveal the government's deception.

Underworld: Awakening

Friday		4:25	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Monday thru Thursday		4:25	7:25	

Kate Beckinsale, Stephen Rea
Horror • Rated R

Red Tails

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:45
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:45
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Monday thru Thursday		4:05	7:05	

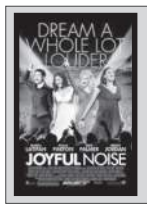
Cuba Gooding, Jr., Terrence Howard
War • Rated PG 13

★ ★ ★

Contraband

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:35
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:35
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Monday thru Thursday		4:20	7:20	

Mark Wahlberg, Kate Beckinsale
Action • Rated R



Joyful Noise

Friday		4:30	7:30	9:50
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:50
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Monday thru Thursday		4:30	7:30	

Queen Latifah, Dolly Parton
Comedy • Rated PG 13

War Horse

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Monday thru Thursday		4:00	7:00	

Jeremy Irvine, Emily Watson
Drama, War • Rated PG 13

Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol

Friday		7:15	9:55
Saturday		7:15	9:55
Sunday		7:15	
Monday thru Thursday		7:15	

Tom Cruise, Jeremy Renner
Spy film, Action • Rated PG 13

Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked

Friday		4:15	
Saturday	1:15	4:15	
Sunday	1:15	4:15	
Monday thru Thursday		4:15	

Jason Lee
Children's/family • Rated G

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Life & Style

Ratings king 'American Idol' ready for 11th season

AP

In this image released by Fox, from left, Steven Tyler, Jennifer Lopez, Randy Jackson and Ryan Seacrest answer questions from the press on the set of "American Idol" auditions in Galveston, Texas.

LAS VEGAS (AP)—It's been a decade since Texas native Kelly Clarkson was plucked from obscurity and turned into the nation's first American Idol. Now the TV show that has spawned dozens of other pop stars and talent competitions is opening its 11th season Wednesday under a cloud of uncertainty.

Is this Ryan Seacrest's last year hosting the nation's most popular show?

Will fans return after new judges Jennifer Lopez and Steven Tyler embraced flattery over criticism during their debut season last year?

Does America still want pop stars invented by a TV show?

The return of the superstar competition will provide some, but not all of the answers fans want to know as "American Idol" heads into its second post-Simon Cowell season.

Lopez and Tyler were brought on to revamp the show last year after Cowell's departure. Despite the shake-up "Idol" maintained its spot as the nation's most-watched TV show, making it No. 1 for the eighth-straight season.

But some critics complained that the new format lacked bite. Lopez, Tyler and lone original judge Randy Jackson seemed reluctant to point out contestants' shortcomings last year in the same blunt manner that helped make "Idol" must-see entertainment.

No major changes have been announced for the show's 11th season. Finalists will once again compete in Las Vegas midway through the competition. Veteran music producer Jimmy Iovine, chairman of Interscope-Geffen-A&M, will return as the in-house mentor for the contestants.

Seacrest has said he would like to stay on as the show's host past 2012. His contract ends this year. There have been several reports that Seacrest could replace Matt Lauer, should he decide to leave the "Today" show on NBC.

Plans for Diamond Jubilee river pageant unveiled

LONDON (AP)—Palace officials Wednesday announced details of a massive pageant on London's River Thames to mark Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee year.

Plans call for roughly 1,000 boats of various sizes to gather June 3 for an unprecedented tribute to the queen, who is marking the 60th year of her reign.

The flotilla will be over seven miles (11 kilometers) long and include barges on which original works composed for the jubilee will be performed. The event is planned to celebrate Britain's fabled maritime history.

The queen, her husband Prince Philip and other senior royals—likely including Prince William and his wife, the former Kate Middleton—will travel on board a royal barge, The Spirit of Chartwell, an opulent cruising vessel that regularly plies the Thames.

The barge will be decorated with flowers from the queen's gardens, with an emphasis on the royal colors, red, gold and purple.

Pageant Master Adrian Evans said the barge "must be a jewel—the most magnificent vessel in the flotilla."

Organizers say the flotilla, one of the largest ever assembled on the river, will include rowboats, working vessels and pleasure craft. All boats will be decorated, including kayaks and canoes.

The procession will cover about 14 miles (22 kilometers), from Hammersmith in west London to the Greenwich Royal Naval College in the east, and will include a vessel, the Amazon, used in Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897.

Planners hope the Diamond Jubilee can match the goodwill generated when the queen celebrated 50 years on the throne at her Golden Jubilee in 2002. That event brought approximately 1 million well-wishers to the gates of Buckingham Palace to cheer the monarch and her family.

It is also remembered for the spectacle of Queen guitarist Brian May playing a rousing version of "God Save The Queen" from the palace roof.

ABC's Weir finds health problem on routine story

NEW YORK (AP)—A routine news story took a strange turn when an ABC "Nightline" anchor had a full body scan that turned up a possible warning sign.

Bill Weir was interviewing Dr. David Agus, who gave him a full series of tests. That included a costly body scan that's not recommended for screening people with no symptoms of disease.

The scan found a calcium deposit in an artery, which the doctor told the Wisconsin native could put him at risk for a future heart attack. But since the program aired Tuesday night, other doctors have challenged that assessment.

The 44-year-old "Nightline" anchor put himself through a battery of tests to illustrate a story about how to prevent disease only to find out on camera in a story that aired Tuesday that one screening spotted heart disease he never knew he had.

Lesions found in Weir's arteries were so serious that the doctor who screened him worried that he is a candidate for a serious heart attack if he doesn't make changes in his life.

Weir considers himself lucky.

"It was the scariest and most fortunate moment of my life, and it happened completely by accident," he said Wednesday. "If I hadn't been assigned this story, who knows when I would have seen a doctor again?"

Weir spoke over lunch, after ordering salmon at a place where he's always had pizza with sausage.

Agus, who put Weir through the tests, said he has received thousands of emails from people who saw Weir's story and he hopes it spurs many to talk with their own doctors.

"He's a hero," said Agus, the author of "The End of Illness," a new book about how the human body works and how it can fail.

YouTube plots 'Your Film Festival' for users

NEW YORK (AP)—YouTube is launching a film festival that will play out online and ultimately send 10 finalists to the Venice Film Festival.

The Google Inc.-owned video site announced Thursday that Your Film Festival will take submissions of short films up to 15 minutes in length between Feb. 2 and March 31. Fifty semi-finalists will be selected by Scott Free Productions, Ridley and Tony Scott's production company.

Those 50 films will form a channel on YouTube: http://www.YouTube.com/yourfilmfestival. There, users will be able to view the films and vote for their favorites.

The 10 finalists will be flown to the 69th annual Venice Film Festival, where their films will be screened in August. Ridley Scott will lead a jury in selecting a winner, who will receive a $500,000 grant from YouTube to produce a work with Scott Free.

"Through this program, YouTube will give filmmakers the opportunity to reach a vast audience, screen their work during the Venice Film Festival and potentially be rewarded in a career-changing way," Robert Kyncl, global head of content at YouTube, said in a statement.

Last year, YouTube released the film "Life in a Day," which was co-produced by Scott. The feature-length documentary stitched together videos submitted by YouTube users.

Though anyone can submit a film, Your Film Festival is particularly hoping to reward young filmmakers and producers. YouTube said that it will be doing outreach at both the Sundance Film Festival and South By Southwest to spur filmmakers to participate in Your Film Festival and urge them to consider YouTube a pathway to industry attention.

Ex-Miss USA in court on DUI charge

HIGHLAND PARK, Mich. (AP)—A Michigan beauty queen who made headlines two years ago by becoming the first Arab-American crowned Miss USA will stand trial in March on a drunken-driving charge unless a plea deal is reached, a judge said Wednesday.

Judge Brigette Officer set a March 14 trial date for Rima Fakih, who made her first court appearance since the Dec. 3 traffic stop in the Detroit enclave of Highland Park. Fakih, 26, has said she wasn't drinking that night, but two police breath tests put her blood alcohol content at over twice the legal limit.

"I apologize. My lawyer doesn't want me to talk," Fakih told reporters outside court.

Fakih, whose family moved to New York from Lebanon in 1993 and then to Detroit suburb of Dearborn 10 years later, won the Miss USA Pageant in 2010, becoming the first Arab-American to do so. Supporters described her win as a victory for diversity, saying it countered negative stereotypes about people of Middle Eastern descent that have flourished in post-9/11 America.

AP

Former Miss USA Rima Fakih appears with her attorney William Culpepper before Judge Brigette Officer during a hearing on a drunken driving charge at 30th District Court in Highland Park, Mich. Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2012.

Fakih's lawyer, W. Otis Culpepper, said he'll prepare for a trial but knows a plea bargain is also possible. He said he anticipates that a "proper conclusion" will be reached.

"Of course she's remorseful," Culpepper said. "She's a model for young women. ... She's a woman of substantial character."

Police said Fakih was driving 60 mph in a 30 mph zone and weaving in and out of traffic before they pulled her over, and that officers found an open bottle of champagne behind the driver's seat of the 2011 Jaguar.

Fakih denied that she had been drinking, but one breath test put her blood alcohol content at 0.20 percent and another put it at 0.19 percent—both above the legal limit of 0.08. She's charged with drunken driving, careless driving and having an open container of alcohol, all misdemeanors.

Before the hearing, assistant city attorney Mohammed A. Nasser told The Associated Press that he was new to the case and hadn't spoken yet to Culpepper about a settlement.

Mark Wahlberg apologizes for 9/11 comments

NEW YORK (AP)—Actor Mark Wahlberg has apologized for asserting that he would have stopped terrorists from flying an airliner into New York's World Trade Center on Sept. 11 if he had been on the plane.

The star of the film "Contraband" issued his apology Wednesday after comments he made to Men's Journal drew criticism.

He told an interviewer in the February issue that had he been on American Airlines Flight 11 with his children "it wouldn't have went down like it did." Terrorists flew the plane with 92 people aboard into the north tower on Sept. 11, 2001.

In his apology, Wahlberg said to speculate was "ridiculous to begin with." He said that to suggest he "would have done anything differently than the passengers on that plane was irresponsible."

Publisher: Burt Bacharach working on memoir

NEW YORK (AP)—Burt Bacharach will be handling the words for his next project: a memoir.

The award-winning collaborator on such hits as "I Say a Little Prayer" and "What the World Needs Now" has a deal with HarperCollins for a memoir due in November. The publisher announced Wednesday that his book will be called "Anyone Who Had a Heart," named after one of many songs Bacharach and lyricist Hal David wrote for Dionne Warwick.

According to HarperCollins, Bacharach will open up about professional success and personal troubles. His partnership with David broke up bitterly, and he has been divorced three times, from singer Paula Stewart, actress Angie Dickinson and fellow songwriter Carole Bayer Sager. His daughter, Nikki, committed suicide at age 40.

Bacharach, 83, has won three Academy Awards and eight Grammys. He helped write dozens of top 40 songs, covered by everyone from Elvis Presley and Aretha Franklin to Alicia Keys and the cast of "Glee." His career spans decades of music history: He was Marlene Dietrich's arranger in the 1950s and `60s and caught on with audiences in recent years through his work with Elvis Costello, Dr. Dre and others and through his cameos in the "Austin Powers" movies.

His book, like so many of his songs, will be a team effort. Robert Greenfield, whose biography of Atlantic Records founder Ahmet Ertegun came out in 2011, will assist with a story "told in Bacharach's own words."

Really? Rob Lowe tweets Peyton Manning will retire

Rob Lowe is taking on another role—pigskin prognosticator.

The actor lit up social media Wednesday when he tweeted that Peyton Manning was done. Lowe said he'd heard from "my people" that the Indianapolis Colts quarterback would retire later in the day.

No official word yet from Manning, the 35-year-old star who missed this season with a neck injury. But ESPN's Chris Mortensen tweeted that Manning's father, Archie, laughed at Lowe's report and said it wasn't true.

Lowe currently is on the NBC hit "Parks and Recreation" that's set in Indiana. He's also friends with Colts owner Jim Irsay—Lowe was the first person Irsay followed on Twitter.

Irsay tweeted his response to Lowe, saying "sources" say Lowe will star in an "epic remake" of a porn movie. ***(AP)***

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Lambert shifts shows after father-in-law's death

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Miranda Lambert has rescheduled weekend shows in Kentucky and North Carolina following the death of her father-in-law. Dick Shelton, father of "The Voice" star Blake Shelton, died Tuesday in Oklahoma with his family after a year of declining health. Lambert, who just kicked off her "On Fire" tour, rescheduled shows in Charlotte and Greensboro, N.C., and Lexington, Ky. Lambert thanked fans for their prayers and support in a news release: "This is a really difficult time for our family and the most important thing is being together. Tell your loved ones you love them." Lambert will return to the road Jan. 25 for the rescheduled show in Charlotte. The other dates were pushed back to February.

Nine foreign films make cut for Oscar shortlist

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Nine films have made the cut for consideration in the foreign-language category at the Academy Awards. Among them is Iran's "A Separation" from writer-director Asghar Farhadi, which won the Golden Globe for best foreign language film last weekend and has been racking up kudos from critics groups nationwide. Also on the list is German director Wim Wenders' "Pina," a 3-D tribute to the career of groundbreaking choreographer Pina Bausch which is also on the shortlist for best documentary feature. The other contenders are: Belgium's "Bullhead," Canada's "Monsieur Lazhar," Denmark's "Superclasico," Israel's "Footnote," Morocco's, "Omar Killed Me," Poland's "In Darkness" and Taiwan's "Warriors of the Rainbow: Seediq Bale." Oscar nominations will be announced Tuesday, with the ceremony set for Feb. 26.

Daughter's behavior puts her on the brink of banishment

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I caught my 16-year-old daughter, "Krista," smoking marijuana. I punished her for it, but never told my wife because I was afraid she'd force me to make a decision that I don't want to make.

I have been married to my second wife for three years. For much of that time, Krista has been a nightmare. When she goes to school, more often than not she's in the principal's office for bad behavior. At home she's worse. She doesn't listen to anyone. We have tried every type of punishment we can think of and nothing has worked.

Recently, my wife brought up the idea of sending Krista to a boarding school for troubled teens. At first, the suggestion made me angry, but after the marijuana incident I am more receptive to it. I am wracked with guilt. Sending my daughter away makes me feel like a failure as a father. But there may be no other choice. How does a parent know when enough is enough?

FED-UP FATHER IN MINNESOTA

DEAR FATHER: Do not send your daughter away to a boarding school for "troubled teens" without first having a psychologist identify what is troubling her. If you do what your wife is suggesting, your daughter could return home with more problems than she left with. Sending her away should be a LAST resort. Some family counseling should be tried first.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: A friend has been confiding in me, telling me her husband abuses her. She says it has gone on the entire 12 years they have been together. He does it in front of the kids, sometimes even while she's nursing or holding their youngest. He also threatens to shoot her. I'm afraid for her safety.

She left him once, but went back after he promised to change and temporarily became the charming man she wishes him to be. She knows she needs to leave again, and I have told her I'll help her in any way I can to make it happen. She's trying to hold out until she finishes her degree and can financially support the kids on her own. I'm afraid she won't make it that long.

I feel so helpless. I worry that by standing by and not taking some kind of action, I'll be partly responsible for anything that may happen to the kids. On the other hand, she tells me these things in confidence. What can I do to help?

TERRIFIED FOR MY FRIEND

DEAR TERRIFIED: Continue encouraging your friend to leave. A man who abuses, terrorizes and threatens to shoot his wife—in front of the children, yet—would have no hesitation about hurting all of them.

By now she should have realized that her abuser will never be the man she imagined him to be. The time to leave is while things are calm—before his next outburst. In order for him to control her, he needs to keep her dependent. If he senses that she's nearing a point where she can support herself and the children without him, he could explode.

Make sure she knows how to contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline. The toll-free number is 800-799-7233. The experts there can help her formulate as safe an escape plan as possible.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am currently in a relationship that has become a roller coaster ride for the last few months. My significant other is always accusing me of cheating. He also starts arguments for no reason. Sometimes I wonder if he is having an affair and trying to throw the blame on me for his guilt issues. What do you think?

ARGUED OUT IN INDIANA

DEAR ARGUED OUT: That's very possible. Another reason might be that he's no longer interested in you and wants to break up. Rather than tolerate his emotional abuse, take the bull by the horns and ask him.

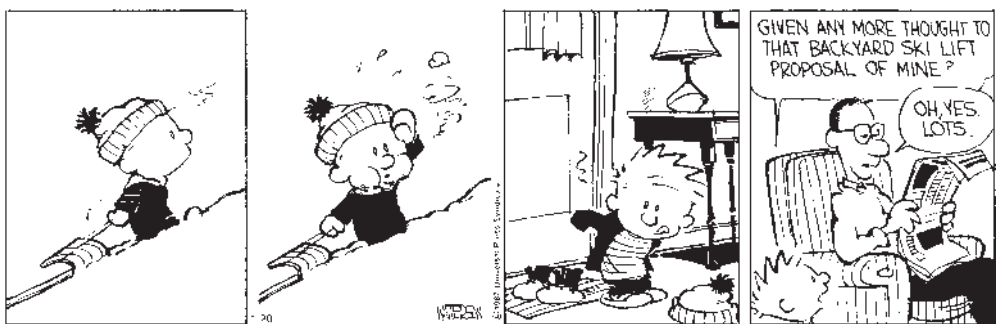
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I THINK YOU'LL LIKE THE RESTAURANT I'VE CHOSEN
WILL THEY HAVE A PLACE TO PLUG IN MY JACKET?
CHANGING?
MY JACKET CLASHED WITH THE EXPRESSION ON LIZ'S FACE

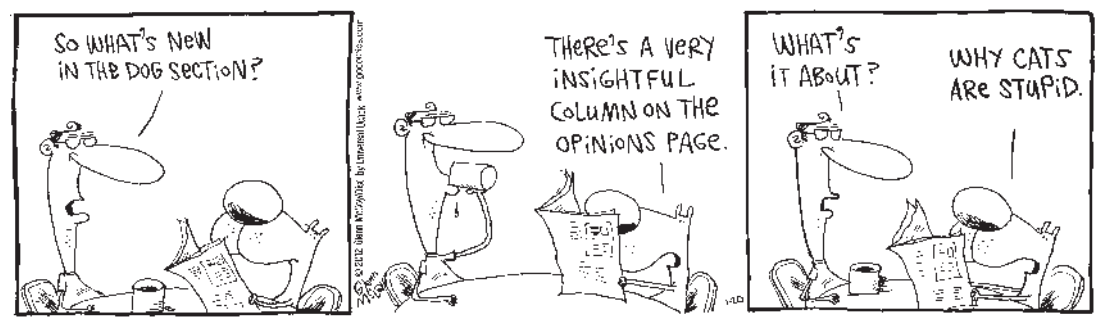
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

OKAY. PLUMBERS GONE. AND IT ONLY COST ME $70.
THAT'S NOT SO BAD. I'VE HAD PLUMBING BILLS TEN TIMES THAT MUCH.
I REALLY DID PICK THE WRONG INDUSTRY TO GO INTO.
AND I DO LIKE TO WEAR MY PANTS REEEAALLL LOW IN THE BACK... SO I'D HAVE FIT RIGHT IN.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Voters' mo.
4 "Awe-some!"
7 First-aid wrapper
12 "The Greatest"
13 Leading lady?
14 Shrivel
15 Altar affirmative
16 Wagner-ian riders
18 Not feel well
19 Laundry woe
20 Out of play
22 Sailor's agree-ment
23 Advan-tage
27 Corn spike
29 Tranquil-izer name
31 In any way possible
34 African language
35 Dale
37 Chap
38 Ova
39 Portion of N.A.
41 Color crudely
45 Foot soldier
47 Code of life
48 February mailing
52 Lubricate
53 Sports venue
54 Earl Grey, e.g.
55 Caviar base
56 Trap-shooting
57 Mess up
58 Football position

DOWN
1 Water nymph
2 Black-and-white film, e.g.
3 String instru-ment
4 Guns the engine
5 James Cameron movie
6 Hold up
7 Charles II's mis-tress Nell
8 Melody
9 Sub-machine gun
10 Last letter
11 Halves of ems
17 Chicken —
21 — of the Wisconsin
23 Serengeti critter
24 Cacoph-ony
25 Stomach
26 Flightless bird
28 Hearty quaff
30 Lawyers' org.
31 "Hail!"
32 Play-ground game
33 Math course
36 Domed tent
37 Bearing
40 Hotel accom-modation
42 Worship
43 Civil War side
44 Bundled hay
45 Summer-time pest
46 Rip
48 Anatomi-cal duct
49 Biblical boat
50 Shelter
51 Away from WSW

Solution time: 25 mins.

O	F	F		B	L	E	D		R	E	D	S
N	O	R		A	I	R	Y		E	T	A	L
E	X	A	C	T	I	O	N		D	U	R	A
			C	O	T		S	E	E	M	I	N	G
U	N	T	O	L	D		S	E	E			
L	E	I		E	N	D		L	A	T	C	H
N	O	O	K		A	D	D		T	R	A	Y
A	N	N	U	L		T	I	S		A	S	P
			M	O	N		P	O	N	G	H	O
C	O	N	Q	U	E	H		C	U	I		
L	I	E	U		R	E	A	C	T	I	O	N
A	L	B	A		V	A	N	E		O	R	B
P	S	S	T		E	M	I	R		N	E	A

Yesterday's answer 1-20

1	2	3	■	4	5	6	■	7	8	9	10	11
12			■	13			■	14				
15			■	16			17					
18			■	19					■	■	■	■
20			21	■	22			■	23	24	25	26
■	■	■	27	28		■	29	30				
31	32	33			■	■	■	34				
35					36	■	37			■	■	■
38				■	39	40		■	41	42	43	44
■	■	■	■	45				46	■	47		
48	49	50	51							52		
53					■	54				55		
56					■	57			■	58		

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99c per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rainn Wilson, 46; Stacey Dash, 45; Bill Maher, 56; David Lynch, 66.

Happy Birthday: Innovation will trigger good decisions and enable you to come up with suggestions that will help not only your progress but also those who can benefit from your example. Set a budget that allows enough maneuverability to do the things you want to do but also gives you the comfort of financial security. Your numbers are 8, 17, 21, 29, 37, 42, 46.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Emotions will mount, causing you to take unnecessary risks. Be careful, especially while traveling or discussing important matters with anyone in an authoritative position. Best to side with caution than to end up in trouble. Use your energy wisely. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Open your mind and your heart and you will experience possibilities that can help you obtain a better lifestyle. Your beliefs and attitude can take a positive turn that will help you mentally, physically and emotionally. Strive to be your best. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Put your energy into physical self-improvement. It's time to start anew and build up your confidence by reaching for your prime target. Don't let love or an emotional relationship hold you back. Focus on what's best for you. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Let your imagination lead the way. A chance to develop a skill or embrace a challenge you've always wanted to conquer must be taken. Fear of failure is no reason to shy away from trying something new. Love is on the rise. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You'll thrive on change and excitement, but beware of the pitfalls that accompany such activities. Too much of anything will be a problem. Stick to what you know you can do and the budget you've allowed, and you will be fine. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You can accomplish whatever you set out to do. Your energy is high and your ability to surpass expectations is on target. A chance to show off and enhance your reputation will add to your satisfaction and confidence. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Listen carefully to grievances or complaints from roommates or loved ones. If you don't make an effort to fix whatever isn't working, you will be criticized. Whatever you do, take care of your responsibilities first and foremost. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Talk about your plans and discoveries. You will interest someone in a project you need help finishing. The favors offered will be worth considering a partnership. The opportunity to turn an idea into a profitable venture is looking good. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Emotions coupled with bravado will end in disaster. Don't jump to conclusions or take sides. Meddling or getting involved in matters that can lead to a precarious situation must be avoided. Concentrate on your home and make it the best it can be. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Travel and share your experiences with people who have similar interests. You can make positive changes to your personal life and your home base if you are open to suggestions from those the alterations will affect most. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Good fortune will be yours if you use your imagination and innovative ideas to help others. What you offer will be well-received, and the favors you get in return will help you move in a positive and progressive direction. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't make impulsive moves that might hinder your position or status. You have to protect your reputation and work diligently toward a worthwhile goal that will bring you positive recognition. Strive for perfection and you will receive praise. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have plenty of energy. You are a sensitive and caring do-gooder.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	5				6		7	
7	1				9		3	8
					4			
						5	9	1
2	7	6						
			9					
8	4		1				6	9
	3		7				4	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 1/20

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	8	9	7	6	4	2	3	1
1	4	2	3	9	5	6	7	8
6	3	7	8	1	2	9	5	4
2	7	6	4	8	9	5	1	3
9	1	8	5	3	7	4	6	2
4	5	3	1	2	6	8	9	7
7	9	4	2	5	1	3	8	6
8	6	1	9	4	3	7	2	5
3	2	5	6	7	8	1	4	9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/19

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID QUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SPRING'S AROUND THE CORNER Solution: 7 letters

C	P	S	A	E	S	P	S	D	S	S	A	U	D	W
I	I	E	W	H	T	I	R	N	E	N	D	G	E	O
T	D	T	G	I	N	A	O	E	T	E	N	R	C	R
I	L	I	N	G	T	I	D	I	P	I	Ⓒ	G	I	G
E	S	A	I	A	H	C	C	O	N	Ⓐ	N	C	N	B
S	D	N	W	S	M	I	H	I	Ⓜ	I	R	I	U	L
S	G	E	A	E	P	O	A	Ⓟ	H	M	T	E	E	S
G	E	F	H	A	N	R	R	T	I	L	O	L	D	L
C	N	E	T	I	R	E	O	G	E	W	Z	C	A	L
O	B	I	R	T	H	L	R	M	E	Z	S	N	C	E
U	O	G	D	T	C	A	I	L	I	M	O	H	E	A
N	T	R	A	D	T	T	C	R	A	S	S	M	D	V
T	O	E	S	I	U	O	D	E	A	U	I	A	A	E
R	W	E	O	U	M	B	R	E	L	L	A	N	L	S
Y	N	N	E	E	K	D	S	S	C	E	N	E	G	E

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Accommodate, Anticipation, Birds, Birth, Budding, Camp, Cities, Clime, Clothing, Country, Dreams, Drizzle, Fashions, Glad, Green, Grow, Idea, Keen, Leaves, Melting, Migration, Nice, Prepared, Promising, Raining, Renewal, Rite, Romantic, Sale, Scene, Seasonal, Sighs, Singing, Slush, Succeed, Switch, Thawing, Time, Town, Trees, Umbrella, Weather, Welcome

Yesterday's Answer: Ggantija

The NEW Treasury that celebrates everything about Wonderword is packed with 150 puzzles, 96 pages, and is only $14.95 (plus $3.25 postage and handling each $1-$9.99 total order). U.S. funds only. To order, call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Outside the U.S., or for additional orders, write Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO, 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Orders must be postmarked by 12/31/2010. Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. Offer subject to change or cancellation without notice.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

EMPLOYMENT

(2) Diesel Mechanic
$6.00-$7.00/hr Contact
Cristy at tel# 989-6192

WANTED TO BUY

Looking for used cars. Year 2003 & up. 4 cylinder, Good condition. We pay cash! Pls. call 287-7676

WHATZIT Solution: Round up the usual suspects

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Computer Repair
Only $25 Minor Problem
WE ALSO FIX LAPTOP & USED PARTS
17" Monitor – FOR SALE
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Open: 7 Days a Week 9:00am - 9:00pm

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Visit us at 865 S. Marine Dr., Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104 Tamuning, Guam 96913
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Email: mawfguam@ite.net • www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily
Saipan Tribune

B & R CORPORATION
Job Vacancy Announcement

Auto Mechanic (1)
- High School Graduate or College level
- Minimum of Three (3) years work experience
- Knowledge in Transmission & Engine overhaul (Standard & Automatic)
- Knowledge in Auto electrical is a plus point
- Knows how to diagnose and fix car problems
- Can work under pressure with minimum supervision
- $5.05 to $7.00 per hour depending on qualifications

Please fax your resume to 235-5570 or email to bnrautoshop@gmail.com

Garage Sale
January 21 – 22, 2012

• Generator (small)
• 20' Container • Chest Freezer
• Bed • Desk
• Chairs • Refrigerator
• Coffee Maker • Bacon Slicer
• Mixer • TV Set
• Cabinet....etc.

Location: China Town Husga Avenue (Behind Gold's Gym) Call: 285-9779

Mikko's Construction
Job Vacancy Announcement

(3) Woodworkers • (3) Electrician
(3) Welder • (3) Builders
(3) Carpenters

Working Hours: 40hr per week/ 8hrs per day
Salary: $5.05/hr

Interested individuals may call 285-5252 for more information.

VALLEY OF GLORY INVESTMENT (USA) CORPORATION
Job Vacancy Announcement

1-General Manager.	College Graduate. 20 years work experience. Knowledge in managing more than 50 employees. Chinese speaking preferred.
1-Operation Manager.	College Graduate. 10+ years work experience. Must be able to read, write and speak English and Chinese Language. Knowledge in Korean and Japanese language is a plus. Basic Computer skill required.
4-Branch Manager.	College Graduate. 10+ years work experience. Must be able to read, write and speak English and Chinese Language. Basic Computer skill required.
6-Assistant Manager.	5 years work experience. Must fulfill jobs assigned from Managers. Basic Computer skill required. Must be able to read, write and speak English and Chinese Language.

Interested applicants may send resume to PMB 62 Box 10003, Saipan, MP 96950

POI Aviation
Invites qualified US workers to apply for the following position:

Passenger Service Agent

Requires: High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with 2 years experience in passenger or customer service. Assists passengers by answering inquiries regarding flight information/booking/reservations, checking-in out-bound passengers and luggage and assisting them in boarding flights, assisting in-bound passengers through immigration and customs. Must be computer-literate with excellent oral and written communication skills in English. Must be able to lift 70 pounds. Able to work nights, weekends, holidays, varied schedules.

Applications can be obtained at the POI Aviation Office at the Continental Cargo Building at the airport. Salaries will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than January 27, 2012. Back ground checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

POI Aviation is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

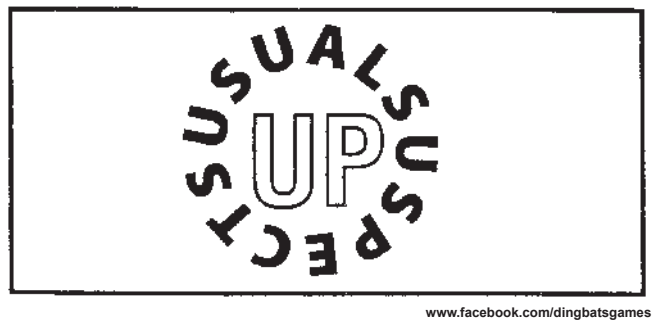
Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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Find today's solution in classified section

WORLD RESORT

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPEN DATE: January 19, 2012 **POSITION:** Accountant
CLOSE DATE: January 27, 2012 **SALARY:** $5.05~$6.00/per hour

Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent. Minimum two years experience in accounting required. Formal education/training in accounting highly recommended.

OPEN DATE: January 19, 2012 **POSITION:** Guest Relation Officer
CLOSE DATE: January 27, 2012 **SALARY:** $5.05~$6.00/per hour

Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent required. Experience in a hotel front desk and/or concierge position strongly preferred. Proficiency in Chinese and Korean language is highly preferred. Will also consider Japanese and Russian speakers. Must have excellent people skills, willingness to provide service, friendly attitude and a ready smile.

OPEN DATE: January 19, 2012 **POSITION:** Steward
CLOSE DATE: January 27, 2012 **SALARY:** $5.05/per hour

Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent. The position may require employee to receive certain food handler related health examinations and clearances before hire and continue to receive such examinations and clearances as a condition to their continue employment. Minimum two (2) years experience in food service preferred.

OPEN DATE: January 19, 2012 **POSITION:** Prim/Lifeguard
CLOSE DATE: January 27, 2012 **SALARY:** $5.05/per hour

Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent. First-aid and Lifeguard certifications preferred, but not required. Sports, recreation, and hospitality industry experience also a plus.

For more information, please contact Ms. Miriam K. Seman, Human Resources Manager at (670) 234-5900 ext. 274/266.

Employment application forms are available at the Saipan World Resort, Security Office, located next to the Wave Jungle Water Park. Applicants must submit the completed form and all the necessary requirements to the Security Office. Incomplete application will not be received by the Security Office.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS
Job Vacancy No. 12-005

Opening Date: Thursday, 1/5/12 **Closing Date: Until Filled**

CHIEF ENGINEER
(Water and Wastewater)

DUTIES: The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is a government utility providing power and water utilities to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota and wastewater utility to the island of Saipan. The incumbent of this position is under the overall supervision of the Deputy Executive Director (Water and Wastewater) or his/her designee. The duties and responsibilities are as follows: Coordinates and meets with other divisional sections and corporate divisions to coordinate activities and projects. Supervises engineering support staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Performs project management activities to include: preparing reports, memorandums and recommendations; developing scope of work; providing technical reviews; surveying for projects; evaluating proposals; monitoring project process; approving payment; and, recommending award of projects. Prepares engineering designs, plans and specifications; collects data and performs research. Troubleshoots systems and equipment. Reviews work performed by engineers. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required by CUC and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). CUC is under a Stipulated order of the United States of America vs. the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Civil Case 08-0051 filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

LOCATION: Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
(Saipan has a population of about 50,000. It is adjacent Asia and about a 3-hour flight south of Tokyo.)

POSITIONS: One (1).

SALARY: $100,000.00 to $135,000.00 per annum; Un-classified; Un-graded.
(If hired from outside the Northern Mariana Islands, terms and conditions of the relocation costs will be negotiated. However, the accommodation shall not exceed $15,000.00 for moving to the islands and shall not exceed $10,000 for moving away from the islands.)

CONTRACT: Two-year; subject to renewal.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Master's degree in civil, mechanical, or electrical engineering; Registration as a Professional Engineer pursuant to the National Council of Engineering Examiners standards in either the civil, mechanical, or electrical branch; Experience of ten (10) or more years as a professional engineer. Demonstrate the following: Proven management and communication skills; Demonstrated ability to lead, motivate, and develop staff; Competency and proficiency in overseeing major drinking water and wastewater systems during periods of planning, design, construction, and operation of drinking water systems' production, treatment, and distribution, and in wastewater treatment, collection, and conveyance systems. Knowledge of: Safe work practices; Applicable Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Project management principles; Mathematical concepts; Construction principles; Engineering principles and practices. Skill in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Managing multiple projects; Interpreting and applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Interpreting drawings; Preparing a variety of technical reports and/or documentation; Presenting technical information to management, public groups, and other related individuals; Reading and interpreting scaled drawings; Preparing specifications, plans, and cost estimates; Conducting studies; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must have a U.S. driver's license.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. You may also drop it off at the CUC Tinian or CUC Rota Administration Office.

CUC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER
P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950-1220 U.S.A. • Tel. Nos. (670) 235-7025 to 32 Fax (670) 235-5131

Commonwealth Cancer Association
AWARENESS•EDUCATION•HOPE

COMMONWEALTH CANCER ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

All friends, volunteers, partners, and clients of the Commonwealth Cancer Association (CCA), and all members of the community, are invited to the general membership meeting on Tuesday, January 31st, 2012 at 6:00pm at CCA's Conference Room.

The agenda will include annual reports of the President and Treasurer; election of three CCA Board members; and opportunity for public comments. Nominations for board members will be accepted in advance and on the floor.

To submit a board nomination, or for more information, contact CCA at 682-0050 or email cca@ccamarianas.org.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
CNMI Judicial Branch

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judicial Branch is seeking qualified and reliable individuals for the position of:

RECORDS TECHNICIAN (Saipan) – Office of the Clerk of Court

REQUIREMENTS: Candidates must have a high school diploma or equivalent and three years work experience..

ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS: Candidates must possess typewriter and computer skills, a valid CNMI driver's license, current police and traffic clearances, and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI.

DUTIES: The employee in this position will work under the general supervision of the Presiding Judge and the direct supervision of the Clerk of Court or his /her designee and will perform the following: sort and arrange documents and files in appropriate file folders; handle reproduction of court documents and related forms; verify and issue criminal record clearances; verify and issue traffic record clearances; ensure file readiness for use in court hearings; perform typing assignments as required, input data from court files into computer database; verify date entry output with court file hard copy; assist deputy clerks with courtroom readiness for jury panels; assist with general reception including, but not limited to, helping customers at all Clerk of Court service windows, answering phone calls, and referring customer requests to appropriate court personnel; accept fines and fees as ordered by the Court; assist in the collection of the payments at the customer service window; prepare and summarize daily collection report on financial services provided; prepare daily tickets and balance daily collection; reconcile reports with daily logs; run errands for the office, including but not limited to, picking up and delivering mail within and outside the courts; and perform other related duties as assigned.

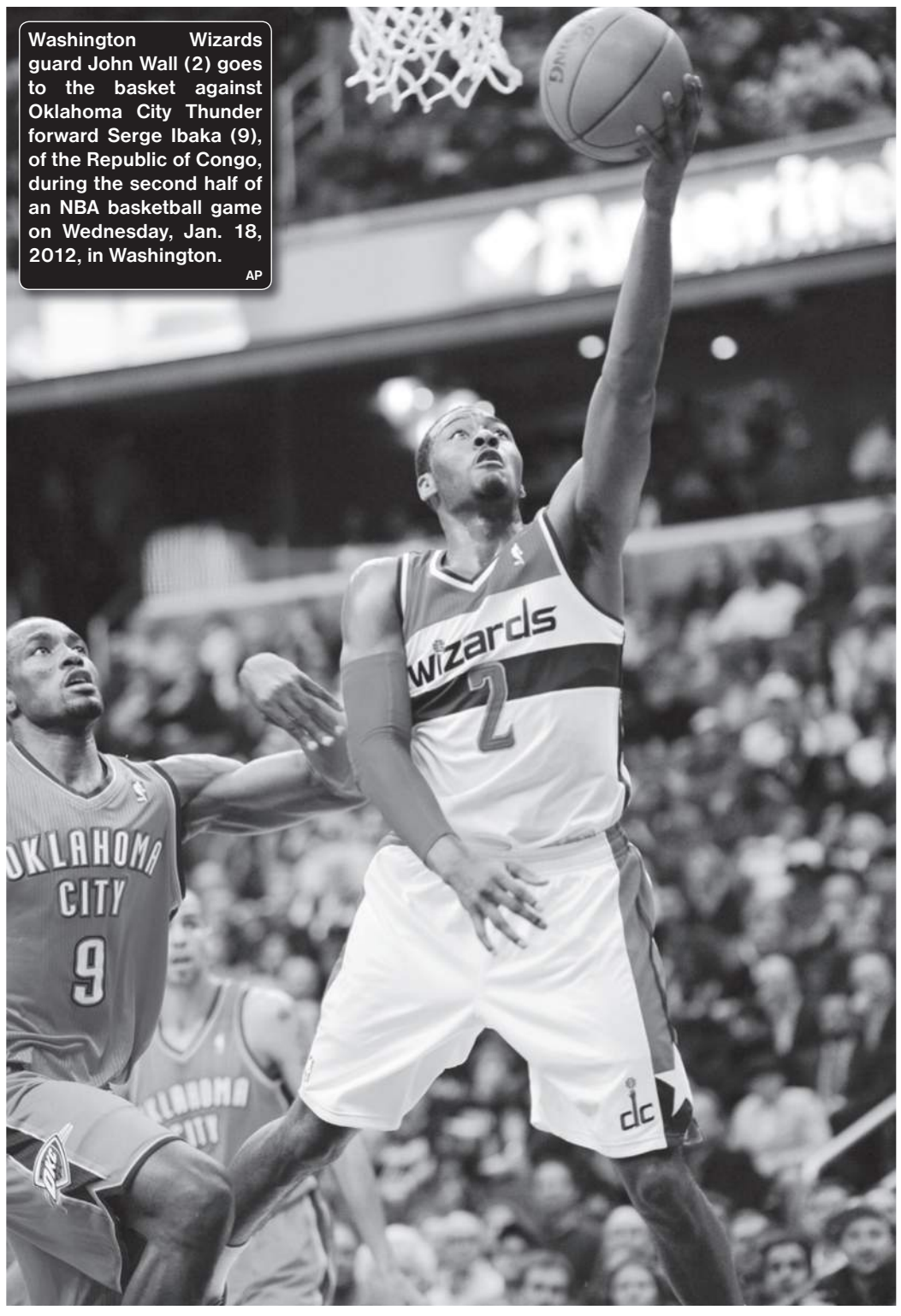
COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed and served at the pleasure of the Chief Justice. This is one year contract at an annual salary of $15,000.

Application forms may be obtained at the OPM offices or at the Supreme Court office at the Guma Hustisia/limwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, Completed applications, resumes, proof of high school graduation, along with copies of police clearance and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI may be submitted at the Supreme Court office at the House of Justice in Susupe or addressed to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, P.O. Box 502165, Saipan, MP, 96950. Resumes and applications must be submitted by 5:00p.m. on January 31st, 2012. For additional information about the position call (670) 236-9716. This job announcement can also be seen at http://www.justice.gov.mp.

Wall, Young help Wizards break Thunder streak

WASHINGTON (AP)—John Wall scored 25 points, Nick Young had 24 and Jordan Crawford added 18 to lead Washington to a 105-102 victory over Oklahoma City on Wednesday, ending the Thunder's seven-game winning streak and giving the Wizards just their second win of the season.

Russell Westbrook scored 36 points and Kevin Durant had 33 for Oklahoma City, which lost for only the third time in 15 games. During one stretch bridging the second and third quarters, the duo accounted for 21 of the Thunder's 23 points. Both slowed down after resting at the start of the fourth, missing 11 of 17 from the field.



Washington Wizards guard John Wall (2) goes to the basket against Oklahoma City Thunder forward Serge Ibaka (9), of the Republic of Congo, during the second half of an NBA basketball game on Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2012, in Washington. AP

Nuggets 108, 76ers 104, OT

In Philadelphia, Andre Miller scored a season-high 28 points and Nene had 20 points and 14 rebounds as Denver outlasted Philadelphia.

Miller scored Denver's last 10 points in regulation and got another big basket in OT. His jumper put the Nuggets ahead 106-104 with 42.9 seconds left. Miller then made a steal on Jrue Holiday's errant pass to seal the Nuggets' fourth consecutive win.

Thaddeus Young scored 22 points and Evan Turner added 20 for the Sixers.

Spurs 85, Magic 83, OT

In Orlando, Florida, Tony Parker scored 25 points, including 16 in the fourth quarter and overtime, as San Antonio held on to beat Orlando.

Tim Duncan added 17 points and 10 rebounds as the Spurs also snapped a streak of 10 consecutive road losses overall, dating to last season.

Dwight Howard had 24 points and 25 rebounds, and Ryan Anderson scored 17, but it wasn't enough for Orlando to overcome a dismal shooting night.

Nets 107, Warriors 100

In Newark, New Jersey, Deron Williams scored 24 points, 11 coming in crucial stretch of the fourth quarter, and had 10 assists and eight rebounds to lead New Jersey to its first home win.

The Nets entered the fourth quarter trailing 83-80, then took control with a 12-5 run. Williams had five points in that stretch, including a 3-pointer that made it 105-96 with 3:26 remaining.

The Nets held on the rest of the way, going scoreless for almost three minutes. MarShon Brooks had 22 points, eight rebounds and six assists for the Nets, and Kris Humphries had 18 points and 15 rebounds.

The Warriors, who had their two-game winning streak snapped, got 30 points from Monte Ellis and 17 from Dorell Wright.

Suns 91, Knicks 88

In New York, Steve Nash had 26 points and 11 assists and Shannon Brown hit a crucial 3-pointer as Phoenix ended a five-game losing streak.

Brown and Grant Hill each scored 14 points for the Suns, who bounced back from an embarrassing 118-97 loss to a Chicago team without Derrick Rose a night earlier.

They got help with a lucky bounce on Brown's 3-pointer from the corner that nearly hit the top of the backboard before falling in that gave them a five-point lead with 35 seconds left, and Nash closed it out with six free throws in the last 16 seconds.

Former Suns forward Amare Stoudemire scored 23 points for the Knicks, who have lost four straight.

Celtics 96, Raptors 73

In Boston, Rajon Rondo scored 13 of his 21 points in the first quarter and left with a sore right wrist in the third, as Boston cruised past Toronto.

Rondo was knocked out of the game after being leveled on a flagrant foul by Linus Kleiza late in the third quarter.

Kevin Garnett added 15 points, Paul Pierce had seven assists and reserves Mickael Pietrus and Brandon Bass also made big contributions for the Celtics.

Gary Forbes scored 18 points and DeMar DeRozan had 11 for the Raptors.

Grizzlies 93, Hornets 87

In New Orleans, Marc Gasol had 22 points and 12 rebounds to help Memphis win its fourth straight.

Mike Conley hit four 3-pointers and finished with 18 points and 10 assists for the Grizzlies, who had five players score in double figures while sending the Hornets to their fifth straight loss and 11th defeat in 12 games.

Jarrett Jack scored a game-high 27 points and his pull-up jumper got New Orleans as close as 87-85 with 1:28 left, but O.J. Mayo's 20-foot jumper helped the Grizzlies hang on as New Orleans struggled to score or get key rebounds in the final minute

Hawks 92, Trail Blazers 89

In Atlanta, Joe Johnson scored 24 points and came up with a key defensive play down the stretch to lead Atlanta to its fourth straight victory since losing All-Star center Al Horford.

Atlanta was up 84-80 when a wild sequence went the home team's way. Jamal Crawford missed on a drive, but Wesley Matthews picked off an outlet pass to apparently give the Blazers another chance. Johnson then hustled up behind Matthews to steal it back, then lobbed to Jeff Teague for a dunk.

Crawford, who led the Blazers with 22 points in his return to Atlanta, hit a last-gasp 3-pointer but the Hawks held on.

Kings 92, Pacers 88

In Sacramento, California, Marcus Thornton scored 17 points as Sacramento rallied from 14 points down in the fourth to beat Indiana.

Francisco Garcia scored 10 of his 16 points in the fourth quarter as the Kings outscored the Pacers 26-8 in the period. DeMarcus Cousins had 13 points and tied a career-high with 19 rebounds for Sacramento, which shot 30 percent.

Darren Collison and Danny Granger scored 16 points each for Indiana.

Clippers 91, Mavericks 89

In Los Angeles, Chauncey Billups hit a winning 3-pointer with 1 second left, and Mo Williams made his first seven shots and finished with 26 points off the bench in his return to the lineup as the Clippers stunned defending NBA champion Dallas.

DeAndre Jordan had 19 points and nine rebounds for the undermanned Clippers, playing their third game in three days.

Dirk Nowitzki and Delonte West each scored 17 points for Dallas.

New name and format for former Bob Hope tourney

LA QUINTA, Calif. (AP)—Greg Norman hadn't played the Bob Hope Classic since 1986, and he had no plans to return to the Palm Springs desert's venerable tournament until Bill Clinton changed his mind.

"I got a phone call I could never say no to, and there's no question about that," the Australian veteran said Wednesday. "We had a very frank conversation about the opportunities and the format, and how the tournament can be resurrected. ... The Bob Hope was such an iconic event. We hate to see events like that disappear."

After several slow years threatened the future of this famed pro-am, the tournament is back in full swing with a new name, a slicker format and an improved field.

The Humana Challenge might have lost Hope, but it gained Clinton—who's at least from a town called Hope.

After gaining its first title sponsor in four years, the tournament dropped its fifth day of competition and eliminated one venue from its traditional four-course rotation. The field also features far fewer amateur playing partners to annoy the pros, and the purse grew to $5.6 million.

The changes are designed to attract bigger names to an event that's been skipped by many players in recent years - even by Anthony Kim, who went to high school in the valley - in favor of a week off or lucrative paydays overseas.

So far, the Humana field is much healthier: Phil Mickelson will start his season here Thursday, as will world No. 8 Dustin Johnson and No. 11 Matt Kuchar.

"Pretty much everything about coming out here, I really enjoy," said Kuchar, who usually prepares for most seasons with a few weeks in the desert before the two opening Hawaii tournaments. "This year I felt like the offseason was extra-short, and I decided to start my year here instead of in Hawaii, and I'm real excited."

The tournament also forged a new partnership with the Clinton Foundation, which returns a presidential feel to an event once played by Dwight Eisenhower and Gerald Ford, both close friends of Hope. Clinton will play with Norman on Saturday, and his foundation will spend the week promoting healthy lifestyles to the Coachella Valley fans.

The tournament's revival is welcome news to those fans who had grown dissatisfied with the decline of an event that traditionally featured movie stars rubbing elbows and trading swing tips with the world's best golfers.

"It's going to bring more people out, and having President Clinton a part of this event is drawing way more attention than it's ever had," said Kim, who's sleeping in his childhood bed this week because his parents still live in the area. "No disrespect to Bob Hope or anybody else, but I see this tournament getting better and better every year."

After 52 years as a five-round event played over four courses, including the last eight years as the only remaining five-day event on the PGA Tour, the tournament dropped back to a four-round format this year. Players mostly hated the extra day of competition, citing the grind as just one reason many top stars stayed away.

The winner gets just over $1 million from the expanded purse. The pro-am also reduced its field of amateurs from over 380 to just 144, with two pros and two amateurs in every group instead of forcing every pro to play with three different amateurs on each of the first four days.

"I think that what kept people from coming maybe in the past was the five days, was the 12 different amateurs," said Kuchar, who claims to love the pro-am format in either incarnation. "It's not for everybody, for sure. I think the new format is much more appealing to everybody."

The tournament's three courses are among the PGA Tour's easiest tracks, and the tour record for birdies is often in trouble. Defending champion Jhonattan Vegas earned his first PGA Tour victory in his fifth career start last year, winning a playoff with Gary Woodland and 2010 champion Bill Haas. Johnson Wagner, who won the Sony Open last week, also is in the field.

The amateur field has been sharply reduced, but Clinton isn't the only duffer who will draw a crowd. The field is expected to include Morgan Freeman, Don Cheadle, Julius Erving, Billy Crudup, Smokey Robinson and Hugh Rodham, Clinton's brother-in-law.

Darvish, Texas agree to $60M, 6-yr deadline deal

Williams, Djokovic into 3rd round in Australia

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)— Serena Williams was only two points from her 500th career match win when she tumbled to the court in the second round of the Australian Open.

It's OK, she thought, it's the good ankle. After sitting and watching Barbora Zahlavova Strycova's shot float out to end the penultimate rally, Williams got up and whipped a backhand winner down the line to move into the third round with a 6-0, 6-4 victory on Thursday.

It improved her career record to 500-104 in tour matches and it was her 16th consecutive match win at Melbourne Park, where she has won five of her 13 Grand Slam titles.

"It's totally fine. It was my good ankle, so I'm good," she said, playing down concern that the fall had aggravated the left ankle sprain which hampered her preparation for the season's first major. "There was no extra pain. I twisted it. But it's all taped up, so the tape really, really helped."

She'd earlier put it down to just having "wobbly ankles."

"I wasn't meant to be a ballerina or anything," she told a post-match TV interview. It seems she was meant to be a tennis pro. Her older sister, Venus, has a win-loss record of 589-147 but is missing the Australian Open to recover from illness.

"I knew I had to get there too, because I do everything she does," said Williams, "It's great, it's like the ultimate."

Not quite.

"The first thing I asked, of course, 'Is there anyone that achieved a thousand?'" There's been two: Martina Navratilova had a career record 1,442-219, and Chris Evert retired with a 1,309-146 record.

"I never will get there either, but it's really cool," Williams said. "Five hundred is a lot of matches to play, let alone to win."

Williams won the Australian Open in 2009 and 2010 but didn't get to defend her title in 2011 because she was injured.

Novak Djokovic won the men's title to kick off a stunning year, which started with a 41-match winning streak and finished with three of the four majors and the No. 1 ranking.

His 6-3, 6-2, 6-1 win over Santiago Giraldo of Colombia was his 16th in a row in major tournaments and keeps him on track to become only the fifth man in the Open era to win three consecutive Grand Slam singles tournaments.

Sixth-seeded Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, who lost the 2008 Australian final to Djokovic, advanced 7-5, 6-4, 6-4 over Ricardo Mello of Brazil, while No. 23 Milos Raonic of Canada and No. 27 Juan Iganacio Chela also progressed. Frenchman Michael Llodra beat No. 32 Alex Bogomolov Jr. 6-1, 6-3, 4-6, 5-7, 6-4.

Maria Sharapova, one of the three former champions in the women's draw, reached the third round after just two hours on court in two matches.

The 2008 champion had a 6-0, 6-1 second-round win over U.S. qualifier Jamie Hampton in 64 minutes.

Sharapova did not play in any warmup events and spent nearly two weeks in Melbourne ahead of the season's first major while she rested an injured left ankle.

"It was more about getting my feet going ... worrying about myself," Sharapova said. "Yeah, started my preparations in the offseason a little late, took a bit of extra time in practice instead of rushing into a tournament."

She'll meet No. 30 Angelique Kerber, who beat Canada's Stephanie Dubois 7-5, 6-1.

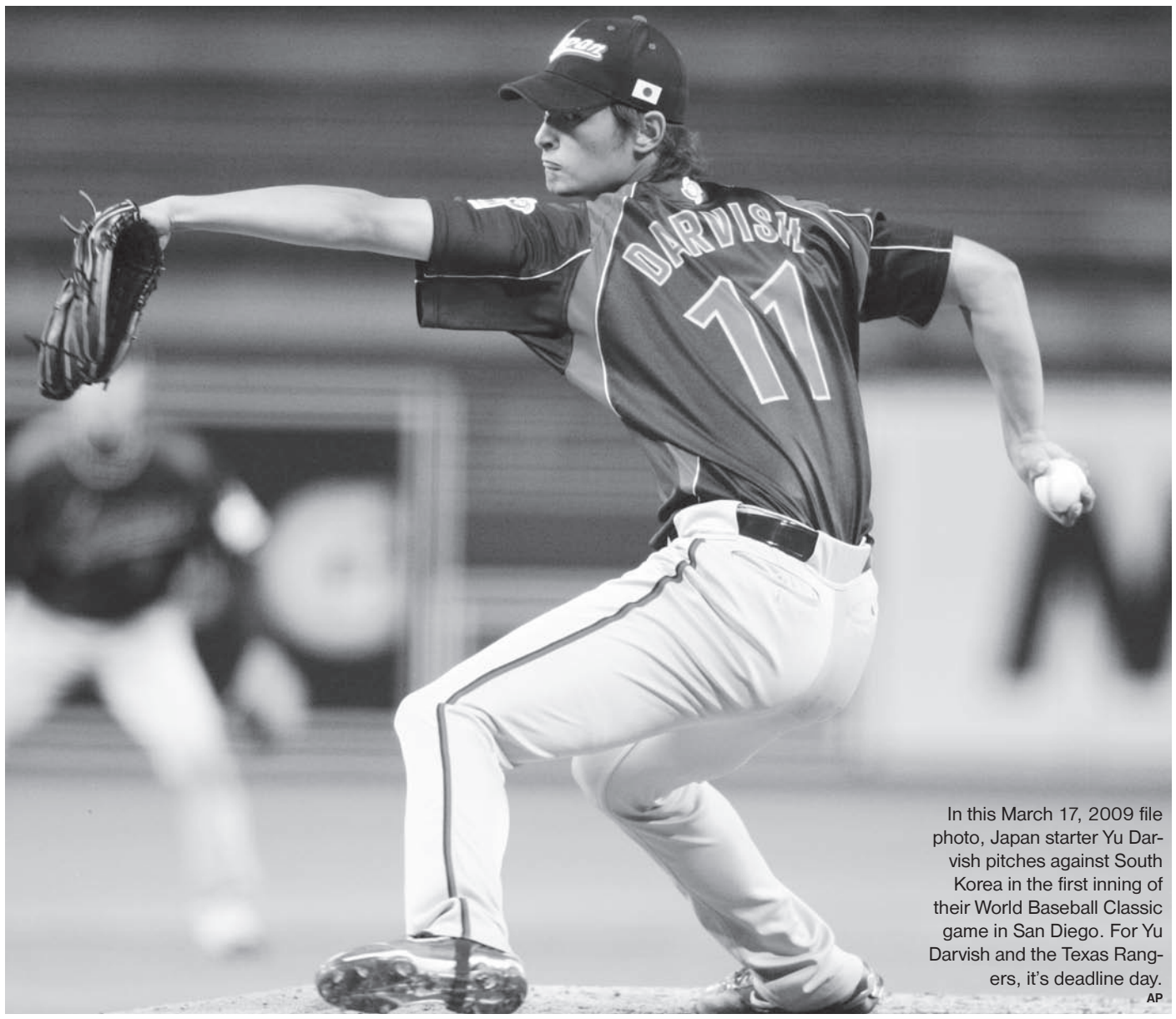
Seventh-seeded Vera Zvonareva, a two-time semifinalist at Melbourne Park, had a 6-1, 7-6 (3) over Lucie Hradecka. No. 21 Ana Ivanovic also advanced, beating Dutch player Michaella Krajicek 6-2, 6-3.

Two seeded players were ousted, with Sara Errani beating No. 29 Nadia Petrova 6-2, 6-2 and No. 25 Kaia Kanepi's strong start to the season coming to an end in a 6-2, 7-5 loss to Ekaterina Makarova of Russia.

Defending champion Kim Clijsters is into the third round on the other half of the draw and advanced on Wednesday along with top-ranked Caroline Wozniacki, No. 3 Victoria Azarenka and former No. 1-ranked Jelena Jankovic.

Clijsters will next face longtime friend Daniela Hantuchova in the third round, and a win there could set up a fourth-round match against French Open champion Li Na, a rematch of the 2011 Australian final.

On the bottom half of the men's draw, No. 2 Rafael Nadal advanced without much trouble from his injured right knee or from German veteran Tommy Haas in a 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 win. Four-time champion Roger Federer didn't even need to pick up a racket because Andreas Beck withdrew from their second-round match.



In this March 17, 2009 file photo, Japan starter Yu Darvish pitches against South Korea in the first inning of their World Baseball Classic game in San Diego. For Yu Darvish and the Texas Rangers, it's deadline day. AP

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)— Yu Darvish is coming to America to pitch.

Japan's best pitcher and the Texas Rangers agreed before Wednesday's deadline to a $60 million, six-year contract. In addition to the salary, the Rangers will pay a posting fee of $51,703,411 to the Hokkaido Nippon Ham Fighters of Japan's Pacific League.

"We look at this as really a perfect fit," general manager Jon Daniels said. "Obviously he has yet to pitch in the major leagues, but we feel he has proven himself on a big stage. ... "It's all winning."

The deal came at the end of a 30-day negotiating window that began Dec. 19 when the Rangers' bid to negotiate with the pitcher was accepted.

Had a deal not been reached by the 4 p.m. CST deadline, Darvish would have remained with the Fighters. And Texas, which has been to consecutive World Series without winning the title, would have kept the posting fee that ends with the jersey numbers of Rangers President and Hall of Fame pitcher Nolan Ryan (34) and Darvish (11).

When the deal was reached in Texas by his agents Don Nomura and Arn Tellem, the 25-year-old Darvish was home in Japan, where he returned for offseason training after his first and only visit to Texas two weeks ago. The Rangers plan to formally introduce Darvish on Friday night.

Tellem said the Rangers not only spent more time than any other team scouting Darvish, but also built a personal relationship with the pitcher while scouting him. He said the pitcher is excited about the opportunity in Texas.

"It's a great team that's been on the door step, and hopefully with Yu coming they will finally reach the goal of winning a World Series," Tellem said. "Yu is excited about helping a team that has not won achieve that goal. ... He's really thrilled to be coming here. This is where he wanted to be."

Darvish had a 93-38 record with a 1.99 ERA over the past seven seasons in Japan. The 6-foot-5 right-hander was a two-time Pacific League MVP and a five-time All-Star. He led the league in strikeouts three times, in ERA twice and won two Gold Gloves.

Ryan was impressed by Darvish's size and attitude about wanting to compete when they met for the first time earlier this month.

"The thing that stood out probably is just his passion for the game and trying to be the best he can possibly be," Ryan said Wednesday. "One of the motivations about coming to the major leagues here is it's another challenge for him, it's an opportunity on a stage that he hasn't been on to show what he's capable of doing."

The deal surpasses what Daisuke Matsuzaka got when he left Japan and signed with the Boston Red Sox just more than five years ago. Dice-K got a $52 million, six-year deal and the Red Sox also had to pay a $51.111 million posting fee that was the highest for a Japanese player before what the Rangers bid for Darvish.

When Ichiro Suzuki used the posting system in 2000 to get to the major leagues, the Seattle Mariners won the right negotiate with a bid of about $13 million, then signed him to a $14 million, three-year contract.

Through last season, 38 Japan-born pitchers had appeared in the major leagues. There were nine last season, including relievers Yoshinori Tateyama and Koji Uehara with the Rangers. Both are still on the 40-man roster in Texas.

Matsuzaka is 49-30 with a 4.25 ERA in 106 games (105 starts) in five seasons with the Red Sox since his high-profile move from the Seibu Lions to Boston in December 2006 when he was 26 years old.

He has had six stints on the disabled list, including last season when he had right elbow surgery and didn't pitch after May 16. He is going into the final season of his contract with the Red Sox worth about $10 million.

Darvish, the son of an Iranian father and a Japanese mother, went 18-6 with a 1.44 ERA last season in Japan, when he made the equivalent of about $6 million. He had 276 strikeouts to lead the Pacific League.

Darvish, who turned pro at 18, pitched in the 2008 Beijing Olympics and was a member of the Japanese team that won the 2009 World Baseball Classic. The right-hander has superb control and throws seven effective pitches.

The Rangers lost their pitching ace in free agency after both World Series appearances.

Cliff Lee left Texas to return to Philadelphia after the 2010 season, when he was with the Rangers just more than three months after his midseason trade from Seattle. C.J. Wilson last month got a $77.5 million, five-year contract from the AL West rival Los Angeles Angels.

Even with the loss of Wilson, Darvish becomes part of a rotation that already had at least six starting candidates going into spring training.

Colby Lewis, Derek Holland, Alexi Ogando and Matt Harrison were starters last season. The Rangers have already determined that closer Neftali Feliz will make the transition from the bullpen to the rotation this year after abandoning such plans last spring. Scott Feldman was a 17-game winner in 2009 before microfracture surgery in his right knee at the end of the 2010 season.

The New York Yankees earlier this month failed to sign Japanese shortstop Hiroyuki Nakajima within 30 days after they won negotiating rights with a high bid of $2.5 million. The 29-year-old Nakajima hit .297 with 16 home runs and 100 RBIs last year with the Seibu Lions, who now retain his rights.

Nakajima and Darvish were teammates during the 2008 Olympics and on Japan's championship team in the 2009 World Baseball Classic.

Tebow played through injuries in playoff loss

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—Tim Tebow needs more R&R than anyone thought.

The Broncos quarterback played through rib, lung and chest injuries he sustained in Denver's 45-10 loss at New England in the AFC divisional playoffs last weekend.

He won't need surgery, is expected to make a full recovery with some down time and his offseason training program shouldn't be affected in any way.

ESPN first reported Wednesday that Tebow got hurt on a third-quarter tackle, then had trouble sleeping because of the pain and underwent an MRI on his chest Monday.

Team spokesman Patrick Smyth said that while he couldn't confirm the exact extent or nature of the injuries due to team policy, he acknowledged that Tebow finished the game in considerable pain.

Backup Brady Quinn quickly got ready to go into the game after Tebow was hit by Vince Wilfork and Rob Ninkovich, but Tebow stayed in and finished up.

"It's just the physicality of playing football. Sometimes you get hit and it can hurt a little bit. But, I wanted to play a lot of the game," Tebow said after the game.

The outcome had long been decided by the time Tebow got hurt.

"I just wanted to show character. You just continue to fight and it doesn't change who you are, how you play, how you go out there, you should be the same at all times," Tebow said. "That's what I wanted to show, it didn't matter if it was the first play or the last play or you were down by 42. I was going to be the same player and I was still going to give everything I have. Because that's all I have to give."

Tebow, who had an ice pack on his non-throwing shoulder after the game, wasn't in the locker room during a one-hour media window on Sunday, emerging with a smile from the trainer's room as reporters were filing out as the players streamed to their end-of-season meeting with coach John Fox.

AP

In this Jan. 14, 2012 file photo, Denver Broncos quarterback Tim Tebow (15) tries to avoid a being tackled by New England Patriots defensive tackle Gerard Warren (98) and Vince Wilfork (75) during the second half of an NFL divisional playoff football game, in Foxborough, Mass.

Recovery from such injuries can take several weeks, and it's highly unlikely Tebow would be able to play in the Pro Bowl on Jan. 29 if he's selected as a second alternate.

On Monday, Broncos boss John Elway declared Tebow the incumbent starting QB entering training camp next summer and reiterated his plan to work with him during the offseason to help polish his passing game.

Tebow went 8-5 as the Broncos starter after supplanting Kyle Orton following a 1-4 start. He engineered a six-game winning streak that included four straight fourth-quarter comebacks that sent Tebowmania into full pitch.

He faded at the end, losing his last three starts, including one to the Kansas City Chiefs and Orton, but the Broncos backed into the playoffs nevertheless at 8-8 as champions of the middling AFC West.

Tebow had the best game of his pro career in the wild card round, when he averaged 31.6 yards per completion, the best in the NFL in 40 years, and threw an 80-yard touchdown pass to Demaryius Thomas on the first play of overtime for a 29-23 win over heavily favored Pittsburgh and the league's No. 1 defense.

That was Denver's first playoff game in six seasons.

While the Broncos brass was delighted at returning to the postseason party a year after a franchise-worst 4-12 season, they said the 35-point loss to the Patriots showed just how far they need to go to return to the AFC's upper echelon.

Eli Manning misses practice with stomach illness

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—New York Giants quarterback Eli Manning missed part of Wednesday's practice session with an illness that coach Tom Coughlin called "a stomach bug, hopefully a 24-hour deal."

Manning was placed on the Giants' injury report for the first time this season as a limited participant in practice, though he missed the majority of it. The team is preparing to play the San Francisco 49ers on Sunday for the NFC championship.

"If there is one guy who can miss a practice Wednesday mentally, it's No. 10," guard Chris Snee said of Manning, who has had his best pro season. "He was probably in here on Monday and Tuesday looking at film."

Tight end Jake Ballard figured Manning headed right home to recuperate—and watch film.

"He's probably going to spend the rest of the day doing that," Ballard said.

Also limited Wednesday were defensive ends Justin Tuck (shoulder) and Osi Umenyiora (ankle, knee), cornerback Corey Webster (hamstring) and rookie linebacker Mark Herzlich (ankle).

Missing practice completely was running back Ahmad Bradshaw with a foot problem. Bradshaw frequently has sat out practices or been limited in recent weeks.

Ballard said it was apparent immediately Wednesday morning that Manning wasn't feeling well.

"You could tell he was hurting bad," Ballard said. "He usually toughs things out like that. You could tell he was dragging, and you don't like to see your Pro Bowl quarterback throwing up or feeling like that. Hopefully he's better tomorrow."

Snee wants to make sure of that, so he offered some help.

"I'm actually going to bring him some soup tomorrow," Snee said. "I'll do whatever it takes to make sure he is at full strength."

Some home cooking?

"Southern gumbo," Snee joked. "Or whatever they have in the cafeteria."

Little League to hold ground rules meetings tomorrow

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The board of directors of the Saipan Little League Baseball, Inc. held a closed-door meeting last weekend to prepare for its upcoming ground rules meetings scheduled for tomorrow, Jan. 21, at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

The board elected to hold its majors division ground rules meeting separate from the other divisions since the groups play on different fields.

The majors fields the most teams and separating groups allows the organization to address the divisions' respective issues with more fluidity.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Saipan Little League Baseball, Inc.'s board of directors president Juan I. Tenorio, center, conducts a general membership meeting held last Jan. 11 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

The junior, senior, and big division meeting is scheduled for 9am followed by the majors division meeting at 1pm.

It is vital that all coaches and managers have their official membership and international volunteer forms submitted by Saturday's meetings because afterwards the board will gather all of the forms and send them in bulk to the Little League Baseball head office in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

This is last meeting that the board will deal with international requirements of its coaches and managers.

In the last general membership meeting held last Jan. 11 the board announced its decision, which requires all members to pay an annual $5 membership fee. They also passed out official sponsorship-agreement so that teams can begin searching for potential sponsors for the upcoming season.

Teams will have to find their own sponsors this year.

For all potential sponsors, half of the $500 entrance fee is due by opening day and the other half is due by the start of Game 6 on their team's respective schedules.

Government-sponsored checks are to be made payable to the SLLBI.

Teams are also required to take the field fully dressed in their uniforms by game six.

Managers and coaches present at last week's meeting also decided on Feb. 18 as opening day of the 2012 season.

The SLLBI board is currently working on acquiring mandatory insurance coverage for the players. The teams are required to satisfy the insurance requirements. Various packages are available and parents are urged to contact either their child's coaching staff or the SLLBI board if they need assistance.

Rosters are still being finalized, after which the game schedules can be formulated. The board is still collecting required paperwork from all active members, which is needed before the background check process can begin.

The board has also announced plans of starting a yearbook to showcase photos of the teams and individual players.

Tomorrow's meeting will be open for members to suggest and recommend local ground rules to the board for their approval. The postseason all-star selection process is another topic on the agenda.

Any coaches or managers that have rulebooks from last year are requested to bring them along and take notes because there will be some changes this year, according to SLLBI president Juan I. Tenorio in a phone interview yesterday.

This year's major division is expected to field 12 teams in one large pool.

The junior and senior age groups are expected to field nine teams each and the big division is expecting six squads.

CNMI

From Page 32

aspiring to make the team. This pool is also training for the qualifying tournament for the AFC U16 Championship 2014 and the EAFF U15 Youth Tournament.

The qualifier for the AFC U16 event will be held in October 2012 with the venue yet to be announced while the EAFF competition is also set for next year.

Salas said that getting invites from AFC events is crucial in the CNMI's bid to become a regular member of the football government body in Asia.

"One of the requirements in our AFC application is to participate in AFC tournaments. If opportunities like these come, we should grab them, as competing in these events will show are determination and commitment to become a regular AFC member," said Salas.

NMIFA is only an associate member of AFC.

"Also, by sending teams to these competition, we will continue to develop our grassroots program. We have to be active in various competitions to achieve our AFC membership quest," Salas added.

Players tryout out for the youth teams are getting help from local coaches and the visiting mentors from Chelsea FC Soccer School (Hong Kong). Regular training sessions are done at the Oleai Sports Complex Field and the various school pitches on Saipan.

Players vying for slots on the team come from MP United, Paire FC, Tan Holdngs FC, Shirley's FC, and Matansa FC.

MHS

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off six points apiece by Joshua Jones and Mike Taitano.

MCS hung around after its slow start, but still trailed, 33-23, at halftime.

Brandon Santos did the bulk of the damage for KHS in the second quarter with nine points.

MCS' Reynald Calbatica was held to three points in the first period, but heated up a little in the second frame. He led MCS with 11 markers in the first half, while KHS' Jones tallied 6 going the other way.

MCS regrouped after the break and mounted a comeback attempt in the third quarter. The Knights pulled within a handful, 52-57, at one point, but KHS' transition offense eventually took over late in the period.

After the Ayuyus came out of the locker room a little sluggish, KHS' Jason Lampkin provided the needed spark. Once he got going, Lampkin just took over the game in the second half, ripping down rebound after rebound to go along with his 14 points and the Knights couldn't do anything to stop him.

When the dust cleared, KHS shot ahead, 51-35, heading into the final canto.

Lampkin remained in the game in the fourth quarter and added seven points before handing it over to the reserves.

He finished with a team-high 23 points, while MCS' Calbatica topped the box score with 25.

The season continues at MHS today at 4pm with a junior varsity pairing between KHS and Grace Christian Academy followed by the varsity tiff at 5pm. The junior squads are taking the floor for the first time this season, while GCA's varsity Eagles are still in search of a win after two tries.

KHS 72 – Lampkin 23, Taitano 14, Santos 9, Mettao 6, Jones 6, Hocog 5, Delos Reyes 4, Sabulao 3, Santiago 2.

MCS 54 – Calbatica 25, Igitol 8, Saludez 7, Pamintuan 6, Montes 4, Salas 2, Gagaring 1, Taguchi 1.

Scoring by quarters: 16-8, 33-23, 51-35, 72-54.

SAN ANTONIO

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cagers and has only two young players. The bigger, but much slower MDX crew managed to keep pace with San Antonio's fast-paced game only in the first quarter as the former trailed by only seven, 27-20. Then in the third quarter, San Antonio broke away, outgunning MDX, 37-19, to turn a 44-33 halftime advantage to a big 81-52 lead.

San Antonio drained four triples in the third and every player fielded in the game contributed on offense to break MDX's back.

Jack Aranda top-scored for San Antonio with 23 points, while Jaymark De Guzman added 14, and Pedro Castro and Marvin Ngeskebei chipped in 12 and 10, respectively. Four other San Antonio playes had nine apiece to give the team a 7-1 record for the top spot in Bracket 1.

Jared Ano led MDX (5-3) with his 18 points, while Art Trajano and Bruce Berline made 17 and 15, respectively.

Chalan Kanoa 94, Garapan 88

In the first game, Chalan Kanoa/Fong's Bakery pulled off a come-from-behind win over Garapan/JHEM's Restaurant to improve to a 6-2 record and take the solo second spot in Bracket A.

Chalan Kanoa trailed by as much as 12 in the first period, 10-22, and was still behind after the third, 64-66, when Jun Tabora anchored the team's recovery in the fourth quarter.

Tabora scored 11 of Chalan Kanoa's 30 markers in the payoff period to power his team to the six-point win. Ezra Caro supported Tabora, making seven in the final canto, including five of the Chalan Kanoa's last six points, while Lawrence Rollon added six early in the fourth.

Tabora finished with a team-high 25 points, while Rollon and Caro nailed 22 and 19, respectively.

Matt Duenas led Garapan (5-2) on the short end with his 27 markers, while J.R. Ngeskebei logged 19 and Manny Duenas tallied 15. Manny Duenas drained two early triples in the first period for Garapan's twin digit lead, but Chalan Kanoa recovered in the second half.

San Vicente 75, Kagman 63

In Bracket B match, San Vicente/Saints downed Kagman/Destroyer to advance to the playoff round.

San Vicente now has a 5-2 record for a tie for second place with Chalan Kiya/Loving Hands in Bracket B. Only the Top 4 teams will advance to the next round.

After a lethargic first half, San Vicente came alive in the last 20 minutes of play for the 12-point victory. San Vicente was behind after the opening quarter, 16-17, and trailed by nine at the break, 24-33, after scoring only eight points in the second canto.

Then in the third period, San Vicente got its offensive game going behind the eight points of Patrick Torres and grabbed the lead, 49-48. Luizi Reyes, who was scoreless in the first three quarters, canned three triples in the fourth to complete San Vicente's come-from-behind win.

First Game

Chalan Kanoa/Fong's Bakery 94 – Tabora 25, Rollon 22, Caro 19, Lerio 15, Mina 6, Tobias 2, Bernardo 2, Agbanlog 2.

Garapan/ JHEM'S 88 – Mat. Duenas 27, Ngeskebei 19, Ma. Duenas 15, Alipio 14, Catalla 5, Surima 2.

Scoring by quarters: 10-22, 36-47, 64-66, 94-88.

Second Game

San Vicente/Saints 75 – Torres 16, Brennan 11, Namelo 11, Igleciaas 11, Reyes 9, Eubanks 6, Cruz 6, Lizama 6.

Kagman/Destroyer 63 – Inos 24, Ito 20, Roque 9, Montes 8, Villasan 4, Valiente 4.

Scoring by quarters: 16-17, 24-33, 49-48, 76-63.

Third Game

San Antonio/Gene's Barber 108 – Aranda 23, De Guzman 14, Castro 12, Ngeskebei 10, Mariano 9, Bicera 9, Villanueva 9, Ne. Salemn 9, Ni. Salem 4, Alegre 4, Palacios 4.

Susupe/Armatech 66 – Ja. Ano 18, Trajano 17, Berline 15, Abuy 10, Malasarte 5, Moreno 3, Diesta 2.

Scoring by quarters: 27-20, 44-33, 81-52, 108-66.

SGA January Ace this Sunday

The Saipan Golfers Association will hold its January Ace Tournament this Sunday, Jan. 22. Show time is at 10am with tee off an hour later at 11am.

Returning and new members are welcome and encouraged to take part in the year's first monthly tournament of SGA.

For more information, contact SGA tournament director Nick Sablan, president Mariano Fajardo, vice president Larry Deleon Guerrero, treasurer Ed Sablan, secretary Frances Sablan, handicap director Ed Manibusan, or solicitation chair Steve Balakrishna. ***(SGA)***

NMASA

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Rangamar, CNMI Kanu Association's Gilbert Birnbrich, Northern Marianas Swimming Federation's John Hirsh, Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's Ed Salas, and Saipan Bowling Association's Gigi Zapanta.

The directors are scheduled to meet before the month ends to choose its officers and all officials will serve in the association for one year.

The NMASA board officials for the 2012-2013 season are expected to be recognized during the 2011 NMASA Annual Sports Banquet on Feb. 16 at the Saipan Grand Hotel.

The banquet will be the first official event for the board and they will announce the winners of the coveted 2011 Male and Female Athletes of the Year, 2011 NMASA/TSL Foundation Male and Female Student Athletes of the Year, 2011 Coach of the Year, 2011 Administrator of the Year, and 2011 Team of the Year awards.

The ceremony will start at 6pm and officials of each sports federation are requested to have their respective top awardees attend the recognition night.

Monthly winners of the male and female and male and female students plums are also invited in the ceremony, as NMASA will be handing out certificates to them. The monthly winners include (male athletes) bowling's Robert Talavera, Raymond Zapanta, Paul Pangelinan, Simon Manacop and Alex Castro, badminton's Dick Guintu, athletics' Clayon Kenty, and CNMI baseball players Joshua Jones, Manny Sablan, Vicente Cepeda, Jerome Delos Santos, Franco Flores, Miguel Iguel, Jesus Iguel, Thomas Joab, Byron Kaipat, Keoni Lizama, Juan Maratita, Tyrone Omar, Craig Sanchez, Elton Santos, and Eric Tenorio;

For the female athlete, the list includes athletics' Yvonne Bennett, football's Lalaine Pagarao, triathlon's Susan Marchitti, badminton's Hannah Choi, and bowling's Ron Cal Gloria Omechelang, and Lala Taitano.

In the students category, making the roll are (female) tennis' Tammy Ackerman, Mikayla Lopez, and Thea Minor, athletics' Rachel Abrams, and swimming's Angel Marie Tan; and (male) Tsunami Saipan's Lukas Kang and Kensuke Kimura, Saipan Swim Club's Kento Akimaru, tennis' Rafael Jones and Christian Miller, football's Jehn Joyner, sprearfishing's David Lizama, basketball's Juan Maratita, and bowling's Marion McKenzie.

NMASA selected the top athletes for 2011 from these list during the Jan. 5 meeting.

2011 DLX Basketball Invitational Friendship League Playoffs

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Two Pacific Postal Plus players watch MDX's Zack Babauta make a layup during the first round of the playoffs in the 2011 DLX Basketball Invitational Friendship League early this month at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

MDX's Mike Palacios pulls up for a one-hander against Pacific Postal Plus' Quincy Johnson.

Pacific Postal Plus' Rommel Usi scoots in for a layup against MDX's Ben Lisua.

MDX and Pacific Postal Plus players battle for the rebound.

Wushin Express' Jun Tabora draws contact against MDX's Mike Palacios.

Wushin Express' Edwin Santos challenges the defense of MDX's Ben Lisua.

Wushin Express' Pete Lizama is clobbered by MDX defenders in the paint.

MDX's Ben Lisua pulls up for a shot against Wushin Express' Junar Guiab.

Blue Haus/Satbahi's Jun Abedes goes up for a baseline layup against MDX's Ben Lisua.

Blue Haus/Satbahi's Jun Brendon Talania makes a layup over the outstretched arms of MDX's Ben Lisua.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

CNMI youth strikers invited to AFC events

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tan Holding FC's Ruselle Tengco performs a drill, while others wait for their turn during a training session at the Oleai Sports Complex Field early this month.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth's youth players received invitations to four Asian Football Confederation-sanctioned events.

On top of the list is the AFC U13 Girls Football Tournament 2012, which will be held in Nanjing, China from June 8 to 15.

Ed Salas, general secretary of Northern Mariana Islands Football Association, which is in charge of sending football teams to off-island competitions, said over 20 players are trying out for slots/training for the China tournament and 18 will be selected on the girls U13 team.

The second competition for the CNMI's youth female strikers is the qualifying round for the AFC U16 Championship 2013. The qualifier is set for October this year and players born from Jan. 1, 1997 to Dec. 31, 1999 are eligible to participate in the tryout and make the team. Venue for the October qualifier has yet to be announced.

For the boys U13/U14 players, two AFC events and one East Asian Football Federation competition are lined up.

The CNMI youth strikers are invited to compete in the AFC U14 Boys Festival of Football in Beijing, China. The event in Beijing will take place from April 23 to 30.

So far, there are over 30 U13/U14 male players joining NMIFA's training session and

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San Antonio whips Susupe for solo lead

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The young guns of San Antonio/Gene's Barber were too much for the veteran crew of Susupe/Armatech.

San Antonio clobbered Susupe, 108-66, during the final game of the week in the 2011 MDX Amateur Radio Club Inter-Village Friendship League last Sunday at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.

San Antonio, which is composed of players seeing action in the MISO high school caging, used its speed and athleticism to dominate MDX, which is bannered by masters

See SAN ANTONIO on Page 30

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

San Antonio's Nevin Salem, left, grabs the rebound away from Susupe's Bong Malasarte during the second quarter of their game in the MDX caging last Sunday at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.

KHS downs MCS in boys basketball, 72-54

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Kagman High School Ayuyus clipped the Mount Carmel School Knights, 72-54, in Wednesday's Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization boys basketball game held at the Marinas High School Gymnasium.

The Ayuyus improved its win-loss record to 2-0, however its first win was via forfeit. The winless Knights were dealt its third straight loss.

Wednesday's first scheduled matchup was originally set between Saipan International School and MHS 1 (2-0), but the game was canceled because SIS opted to enter the junior varsity field.

KHS jumped in front early, 16-8, in the opening 10 minutes

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WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Kagman High School's Jason Lampkin attacks the basket in Wednesday's MISO boys basketball game against Mount Carmel School held at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

NMASA elects directors

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Ten individuals were named to the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association board of directors during the group's first meeting of the year early this month at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Making the list are many time NMASA president Michael White, Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association's Jeff Race, Refaluwasch Golf Association's Jess Wabol, Saipan Major League's Rose Igitol, Basketball Association of Northern Marianas Islands' Tony Rogolifoi and Elias

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Michael White, left, and Jeff Race, seen here leading the awards presentation during last year's NMASA banquet, were elected anew to the NMASA board of directors.